

# The Argus

First Issue Published July 1, 1954

Vol. LIII No. 408  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

## The unbearable weight of being

**New law threatens lives of laborers**



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

## Cover story

A group of railroad laborers working under the sun. Work is hard, but the new law makes it even harder.



## The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

Published monthly except the school holidays by and for students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. The Argus, the oldest campus English newspaper in Korea, pursues the highest standard of campus journalism.

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Printed by HONG DESIGN

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# Contents

## News desk ..... 2

### Campus Section

## In-depth / Students get lost before new system ..... 5

## Round Talk / Through movies, they speak ..... 8

## Dating on Sunday / Net surf with homegrown browser by HUFSan ..... 10

## Pandora's Box / Result of worthless struggle ..... 11

### National Section

## Wide Eyed / Way too gay for you? ..... 12

## Eye of The Argus / No introspection, no reform ..... 14

### Cover Story

- New law, for labors but not a blessing for them ..... 15
- Same law, opposite directions ..... 18

### Theory & Critique Section

## T&C Tower / Blackhole to illness ..... 20

## Books / Difference does not stem from races but geographical factors ..... 22

## Digest & Focus / Welfare pundits gather for advanced social service ..... 24

### Culture Section

## In-depth / Good benefit in disguise ..... 25

## Rendezvous / Blossom of history ..... 28

## Overview / Yellow tide on screen ..... 30

## Blue Print / Sweet job landing ..... 31

## Opinion ..... 32



# Speechless sides

**T**he sizzling weather is passing and a cooler breeze is in the air. On campus students are getting ready for this new air. Contrary to these vivid scenes of campus, there are some out-dated posters still attached with an ongoing issue.

Last May, the General Student Council (GSC) made an open request for correction of the top article published on Oedaehakbo. The article was about the careless administrative works of GSC which was in charge of managing the student festival, *Daedongjae*.

After the open request, the press issued a revised version of the article. However, it seems that the wrangling is not over and the student bulletin board is still clamoring. Even though Oedaehakbo issued their revised version, GSC is still demanding -after over three months since the paper came out- further corrections on some parts of the article. After the announcement, the press is remaining in silence.

If Oedaehakbo wrote and made effort toward a more objective article, they need to clarify their position about the article. That is the only solution which can hush up the council's claim. Now, however, Oedaehakbo is holding their tongue. This can rather make HUFSSans to recognize them as somewhat an arrogant organization. Hence, Oedaehakbo should reason their position and speak out. It would be a fundamental solution as well as a temporary step handling this problem.

On the other hand, who is acting worse is the GSC. In an official document written by GSC, some statements include expressions which try to appeal emotionally to the readers. For instance, there is a sentence which contradicts the Oedaehakbo's article with the GSC's administrative works. It says, "The article of Oedaehakbo hurt those who had voluntarily participated in the council's work as supporters of organizers." It would have been proper if the errors in the article were pointed out by a non GSC student. However, the issue is whether the error is based on facts or not. Emotional reactions have nothing to do with efforts on truthfulness in the article. GSC's expressions can rather make the issue vague and set Oedaehakbo as if they were trying to do harm on GSC members. From this point of view, the GSC's response seems to be based on personal feelings.

This is not only for the "*Daedongjae* article" issue. Relationship between the council and the press has been getting worse in the past days. GSC rejected all of Oedaehakbo's interviews and reporting requests. This is not a proper reaction as a leading group towards a press organization because of an article that have gotten on their nerves. It is possible that this action can raise more problems. That is because HUFSSans obtain information about GSC's activities through the media in HUFS like Oedaehakbo. If it cannot cover issues from GSC, the whole quality they have would be degraded. Even though GSC's behavior can lead to these problems, it seems that GSC will not change their attitude. This is not a desirable aspect of the students representative.

If there is no harmony between GSC and Oedaehakbo, it would cause harm not just for two organizations, but for all HUFSSans. HUFSSans will be encountered by clashes getting frustrated to watch both sides barking at each other.

GSC as well as Oedaehakbo exists as HUFSSans' representative and spokesperson. They work away their duty for student's welfare and rights. Now they should sit down and think about their own positions and seek a balanceable communication.

A few days ago, a dogfight between the Chongwadae and the press broke out owing to "advanced coverage and reporting system." The government asserted that its system will offer advanced changes to the press. On the contrary, most reporters claimed that the new system would seriously restrict the freedom to speak. Likewise, two groups in HUFS should pull off the labels attached on their backs, "excessive reaction" and "pride and prejudice."

*Editor in Chief*  
**Cha Hyun-jin**

## Students take part in mock U.N. general assembly

Student delegates from HUFS and five other universities adopted a resolution calling for a new and effective partnership for the development of developing countries at a mock general assembly of the United Nations on August 25.

At the meeting, held at the Convention and Exhibition Center in southern Seoul, the 17 delegates represented 17 members of the world body comprising donor countries and recipient countries.

The event was hosted by the HUFS International Model United Nations (HIMUN), a student body established at the university for the event, and the state-run Korea International Cooperation Agency.

The resolution said recipient countries emphasize the importance of “aid coordination” in all kinds of aid for efficiency in the process of development, based upon each developing country’s development strategy and priorities.

Donor countries decided to hold further discussions to find a substantive and concrete method for the establishment of aid funds by raising 0.1 percent of the annual increased revenues of the countries, the resolution said.

The delegates from HUFS, Ehwa Womans University, Yonsei University, Chungang University, Sogang University and Seoul National University conducted the assembly in six U.N. official languages: English, French, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

At the meeting, the French delegate, Sung In-hye, said that “The French government is trying to fulfill recipient countries’ democracy and establish civil society in the countries.”

Lim Mi-kyung, who acted as the German delegate, said that “in developing countries, policies towards people in poverty will be not adopted until the people express their opinions strongly. The German government’s aid policies towards the countries are going to focus on encouraging economic development.”

The Indian delegate, Kim Sung-hye, said that “India was one of the recipient countries, and now India’s economy is growing rapidly. The Indian government is financially ready to take responsibility for providing the developing countries with aid. However, an effective aid system is not founded yet. In this point, cooperation to establish the aid



The delegates discuss the agenda on assisting developing countries.

system is necessary.”

The delegate representing Norway, Kim Se-won, said that “As a traditional aid country, the Norwegian government has been providing aid for poor countries. A Norwegian also thinks of helping them as moral duty. Moreover, people of the aid countries must be authorized to obtain information on an outcome of the aid.”

After finishing the assembly, HIMUN Secretary-General Cho Yae-sin (BA-04) said, “I am delighted that everyone did their best with passion. HIMUN will always be trying to become more prepared to hold the event successfully down the road by grasping the situation of the world.”

By Yun Ji-hun

## HUFSans run English camp for rural school kids

A group of HUFSans operated a three-day camp at an elementary school in a remote village in South Korea’s northeastern area from August 20 to teach English to the school’s kids, marking the first time for the university to take part in rural activities as an educator of English.

The seven-member team, led by Yoo Jaehwan, director of the planning department at General Students Association, visited Naedae Elementary School in the city of Cheorwon, Gangwon Province, and gave basic level English lessons to about 30 students there at the camp titled “English world with HUFS.”

The HUFSans chose to provide the village’s kids with English lessons rather than helping the elders in the village farm. “We thought teaching English is better than

helping their farming. There isn’t a lot of farming work to do during summer time. It’s the leisure season for farmers,” Yoo said.

The elementary school, located very far away from the village, is on a list of schools to be closed as it has seen the number of its students decline. Kids in the school have no exposure to private lessons.

With the camp mainly focusing on an introduction course, the team tried to help the kids understand and learn English words and expressions that are commonly used in everyday life. At the camp, the HUFSans stressed that there’s no difference between agriculture life and city life, eventually making the HUFS teachers and the children become closer through English as an instrument for their interactions.

The programs were not very different from other general English camps, but they also included some outdoor activities such as a field trip to the riverside, climbing a mountain and dabbling in the water as well as teaching nature-related English words. These nature activities fostered friendly and close relationships between the children and the teachers.

Since this was HUFS’ first attempt, the preparation wasn’t perfectly set up, Yoo admitted. The school is planning on making “English World with HUFS” an official program with full arrangements, and will support it fully. To continue this curriculum is expected to upgrade the image and significance of HUFS.

By Baek Song-hyun

## Civic body holds rally to celebrate inter-Korean summit

Hundreds of activists from a progressive civic group rallied in central Seoul on the occasion of Liberation Day on August 15 to support the upcoming inter-Korean summit and promote inter-Korean reunification without the intervention of the U.S..

The day marked the 62nd anniversary of the 1945 liberation of the Korean Peninsula from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule. The day is a major holiday in both North and South Korea.

The activists, who numbered about 400 and gathered in Daehakno street in Seoul, were from the South Korean preparation committee working for implementation of the joint declaration of the first-ever Korean summit in June, 2000, which opened the gates to rapprochement and reconciliation between the two Koreas.

The original plan had called for civic groups of the two Koreas to jointly celebrate

the holiday and the declaration in South Korea's biggest port city of Busan. But the South Korean committee had to hold the event separately as the North boycotted it in protest of Ulchi Focus Lens, a South Korea-U.S. military exercise, which began in South Korea on August 20.

Lim Hyeon-taek, who comes from Busan, said "I am disappointed that we were not able to observe the day with a North Korean delegation. Still, the event is significant because every participant can carry on the spirit of the declaration and hope for independent unification."

The event, which started at 11 a.m., also featured various performances such as "samulnori," a Korean ensemble with percussion instruments, a children's chorus and a traditional dance.

Afterwards, the participants marched from Marronnier Park to the U.S. Embassy in Gwanghwamun, where they held a

demonstration to welcome the second inter-Korean summit and demand an immediate halt to the Ulchi Focus Lens training as well as withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula.

The two Koreas have agreed to hold a the summit in Pyongyang from October 2 to 4. The summit between South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, initially scheduled from August 28 to 30, was postponed due to devastating floods in the North.

By Mun Hyeon-gyeong



In the campaign, two children smile celebrating the upcoming inter-Korean summit.

Mun Hyeon-gyeong / The Argus

## Laborers protest for retail workers

Thousands of laborers under an umbrella labor body gathered in front of Seoul Station on August 18 to give support to striking union workers at the nation's major retailer E-Land Group.

About 2,000 workers from the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions got together ahead of their planned mass strike at the Homever outlet in Sangam-dong and the New Core outlet in Gangnam, the two core outlets groups in Seoul.

The workers at E-Land had clashed with the management to protest the massive dismissal of non-regular workers. E-Land laid off more than 900 non-regular employees at Homever and New Core before the country's new labor law regarding them took effect this month, provoking the protest by the union.

At the rally in front of the station, one laborer after another came up to the readied stage and gave speeches of the hardship they are going through and called for the need of sticking together to fight against the

management.

One of them was a former stewardess of the KTX high-speed train. She said, "All of us should encourage each other. It is only the laborers together that can trust and fight against the disadvantages."

A group of students gave a performance against neo-liberalism. A laborer on condition of anonymity, who worked for New Core, said that "the rally was meant to rid the new temporary workers law, to stop out-sourcing and win the release of those who were arrested."

He also mentioned that "New Core had been on strike for sixty days and discussed matters with the management for eleven days but that there was no change. There are also new troubles rising between laborers because people are starting to face reality and the need of money, causing them to return to their work field."

He also said, "University students have lost much interest for themselves as a whole compared to the last decade. Things have



Laid off temporary workers protest in front of Seoul Station.

been the same since July and laborers are worried about losing their jobs. If this problem is not solved now, university students who have futures ahead of them will be experiencing the same things that we are. So, students should take this in as their own problem and think more about the situation of temporary workers. It is not always the best idea to look at things from a new point of view." Towards the end of the gathering, workers from Eland came up to the stage to once again let their voices be heard and the whole group rose to head toward the two retail shops.

By Yi Sung-ae

Yi Sung-ae / The Argus

## Guitarists take part in energy-saving event

Almost one thousand of guitarists gathered at the plaza in front of Seoul City Hall, as part of a civic group-led campaign to improve and protect the environment, on the evening of August 22, South Korean Energy Day.

The guitarists, numbering 903, played the song “a country of happiness” as a group, contributing to the growing campaign in which households and building operators are asked to turn off electric lights for 5 minutes from 9 p.m. as a symbolic move to save energy.

Dubbed “Turn-on-the star-light-rather-than-electric-light” and organized by Korea NGO’s Energy Network, the campaign was staged in 15 major cities nationwide, with Seoul Plaza Hotel, Samsung Jongno Tower

and 68 other buildings in Seoul unseen in the blackout.

The organizers had hoped to draw 2020 participants for the concert as they called for a 20 percent cut in the emission of greenhouse gases in the country by 2020, and also hoped to set the Guinness World Records as the world’s largest guitar concert.

Germany currently holds the record with the number of 1,876. But the concert was certified by the Korea Record Institute as the nation’s most crowded concert.

Park Hae-eun, a participant in the concert said, “I am happy I could attend this meaningful event to save energy. Although the world record was not broken, I am still so happy I played a role in making this wonderful concert a Korean record.”



A band performs on the stage, entertaining the crowd.

The concert followed a day-time event in which people were encouraged to turn off air conditioners for one hour.

The energy day is observed every summer to remember the nation’s record-high power consumption set on August 22, 2004.

By Hwang Kyeong-mi

## HUFS seeks alumni on online

The school was able to find out whereabouts of about 20,000 alumni through an online campaign to seek its alumni for the first time from July 9 to August 24.

For the campaign, HUFS set up a site on Cyworld, a Korean popular provider of personal Internet homepage, and kept in touch with call and text messages online.

Many former HUFSSans visited this website (<http://www.hufsan.or.kr>) to leave their messages of congratulation and their contact addresses and numbers. Data from the campaign will be used for sending HUFS newsletter to its alumni and forming a network of HUFSSans.

HUFS, established on 1954, now has almost 100,000 alumni. But there have been no arranged campaign for finding out alumni and only 10,000 alumni were registered in the school’s alumni association. Some incorrect and old information on its alumni caused many of the school’s newsletters to be returned, thus generating the need for the campaign as part of its efforts to reduce the cost of returned newsletters and keep track of its alumni.

This campaign started with small scale at the beginning. But the scale of this campaign had been bigger so that the school employed some HUFSSans as part-time workers. The students got chances to meet seniors and earn money.

Koo Tae yun (I-06) said, “I hope it is not temporary campaign. It was a good chance to provide the affection and memory of HUFS to HUFSSans and the alumni.”

The campaign will continue on during the term, and a larger campaign will begin again on the next vacation, person in charge of this campaign, Yu Hee-ra, said.

By Kim Eun-hye

## Foreign students get Korean studies with HUFSSans

Hundreds of foreign students from 10 countries took a five-week program on Korean studies, along with about HUFSSans, from July 9 to August 10 and exchanged views on Korea and its culture with HUFSSans.

The International Summer Session (ISS), the fifth of its kind since 2003 and held in summer vacation every year, is designed to give HUFSSans and foreign students opportunities to get to know Korea and its culture through discussion between foreign students and HUFSSans.

Classes of the session, which were offered in English, involved Korean politics, economics, societies, language, and culture, with professors coming from the university, Oxford, Leiden, Hamburg and other foreign schools.

The session also included “field activities” that offered a diversity of chances to experience Korean cultural to the class takers.

One of the foreign teachers, Antoine Coppola, a member of the advisory committee of Critics’ Choice of Cannes.

Coppola had a class about Korean cinema history and opened a workshop for film making with 20 students every Monday. He was quoted as saying that the Korean movie is so powerful and diverse that he is very interested in it and students were very active in every class.

The ISS has been enlarged in terms of curriculums and classes. “ISS will be more activated if new-built dormitory accomodates more foreign students.” school official said.

By Kwon Eun-jung



# Students get lost before new system

## Dual major making freshmen fall into disorder

By **Baek Song-hyun**

Reporter of *The Argus*

The dual major system is not new at HUFS. Last year, the dual major was an option to choose for students. However, from this semester, all freshmen are required to take it. Dual major is a system that students study two areas and officially declare for majors before graduate. This is very different from the previous systems such as the double major, the second major, and the minor. The students apply for their dual major course at the end of the second semester in the first year, so that they can take two major courses in the second year.

The purpose of implementing the dual-major is to provide students with more diverse opportunities to study abroad and broaden their perspectives. However, since the process of choosing a second major course is somewhat limited; students are not able to choose the major that they would like to study. The dual major system is to give every student the opportunity of studying. In contrast, this is not being done and HUFSans are stressed about this system.

### Difference between dual major and the second major system

The dual major system requires 54 credits for each major area and receive one diploma including two academic bachelor's degrees. This compulsory system is different from the second major system. For the dual major, students in the first year are asked to apply for up to three majors that they would like to study. However, not everyone gets their first wish accepted in the list. This is because the university selects students based on their Grade Point Average (GPA). Students with higher GPA have a better chance to get accepted.

In contrast to the dual major, the second major system is more open to students. They are permitted to take any courses they want and have no required minimum GPA. Also, for the second major system, unlike the dual major, students can withdraw whenever they want. For instance, if the student does not reach the total required credits of 42, but complete over 21 credit hours, they are automatically dropped from the second major and instead treated as a minor. Even if the amount of the total credits is less than 21, credits can be automatically transferred to the non-major

selective course credits.

However, the dual major cannot be given up at any point of time, even when the student is allocated to unwanted courses. Subsequently, they are obliged to complete credits in order to graduate. This is the reason why the freshmen are desperate on the grades; to get into the wanted academic program. Therefore, students are relatively less exposed to other subject matters, as compared to those who take the second major, and have no or less information on dual major courses; regardless of student interest.

### Forbidden withdrawal

The most serious problem that students brought forward is the withdrawal prohibited. Since the dual major is according to the GPA from the previous grade, a lot of first grade students are up to getting the appropriate GPA; before even choosing the course. The students are only focusing on their major grades, so the HUFSans tend to ignore other courses. As a result, students choose a wrong dual major. Even if the students may have to choose an un-interesting course, withdrawal is not an option and should complete those courses



Baek Song-hyun / The Argus

until they graduate. “If withdrawal is allowed, almost all students who are not able to take the first choice in the wish list for the major will drop. Then, the registration’s office will face challenge to deal with it,” said Jeong Kyoung-won, the Dean of Academic Affairs. Also, “The university won’t guarantee the students who drop gets their first option 100 percent or not and it’s a waste of time for students and the school,” he added.

However, the intention of conducting a dual major system is to provide students with more opportunity for studying different areas. Lee Joong-tae (C-04), the president of the College of Oriental Languages Student Council, argued that not allowing the withdrawal is violating the right of choice for students.

The dual major system also was available last year, but it was optional for students. Because it was the university’s first attempt, many students were unaware of the withdrawal option. According to Lee Dong-hoon (EE-02), the president of the College of Education Student Council, those students who selected the dual major were not only informed about the withdrawal option but also the system itself. HUFS only provided the relevant course schedule from the previous semester and if any unexpected outcomes occurred, students were responsible.

This year, Lee stated that the same circumstance will be observed if withdrawal is not available. The freshmen are officially the first group who is taking the dual major, but the university is not perfectly ready for the implementation. “The new students don’t have much idea about whom to ask and make a suggestion and HUFS doesn’t present the information clearly to all students,” said Lee Dong-hoon.

“Putting up the flyer in front of the department office is not the most effective way to communicate with students and the university should come up with the beneficial public notice,” he added. Lee Dong-hoon also assumed that “not approving the withdrawal is not only disturbing the right to choose the major but damage for the future such as paying tuition fees to un-wanted major.”

He commented that “because of the heavy load of work the registration’s office

### Number of credits for specialist course

Language Departments	Provided credits till the graduation
Indian	76
Iranian	78
Turkish	75
Netherlandish	76

has to deal is one of the reasons for prohibited withdrawal, the students’ are the ones who get attacked from this system.”

#### The lack of specialist and linking major subjects

Besides the dual major, the specialist program is available. If the student wishes not to take the dual major, then they should take the specialist program and a minor. As the specialist implies, students should take 75 credits in the special area chosen in order to graduate. However, at HUFS, not every programs and departments fulfill this stipulation, due to the lack of course offerings. Even if the courses area available to fulfill 75 credits or more, there are some time conflicts of courses in reality. Thus, students are not able to take multiple courses to meet the required credits.

Then, what is a specialist program? The specialist program is by word, focusing on one major, but students are asked to take the minor, which requires 21 credits. To be the specialist on the particular subject, students do not need to take all courses. Students should be able to choose from the available courses and study deeply. Conversely in some language departments, students insist that there are not enough courses available to complete the specialist program.

However, those language majors such as Indian, Iranian, Malaysian, Indonesian, Turkish, Thai, and Netherlandish are the only available at HUFS, so students cannot take any supplementary courses in other



institutions. Seventy five credits are required in general, while Turkish requires 75 credits. This means in order to declare Turkish as a specialized area, students should take all courses offered. However, it is impossible because some courses have a time conflict and other courses in the minor area will also overlap. The same situation occurs in Indian, Netherlandish, and Iranian which require 76, 76 and 78 credits respectively.

Language majors do not only aim to provide the language course itself. Students can choose the geography, history, literature, etc. in the department. If the student wants to be specialized in geography, history, or literature in the language area, he or she should be able to intensively study. However, the corresponding courses are not diverse.

As a matter of fact, from some of the above majors, most credit hours that students can complete in one semester are less than 10. “Even though there are not enough courses, the university says that they will offer more courses gradually. The university did increase the number of course offering, but still students have few choices. There are not enough specialized courses for each linguistic department” said Lee Joong-Tae. He added that if this can’t





Han Gyu-hyun / Cartoonist of The Argus

### Number of credits for interdisciplinary majors as a dual major

interdisciplinary Major departments	Provided credits till the graduation
BRICs	32
Northeast Asian	30
Culture contents	54
EU	8

#### Crisscross with school and students

The original meaning of introducing the dual major is to provide equal learning opportunity for all students regardless of the first or dual majors. However, the intention is flowing the wrong way to the College of Business and Economics (BE). Last year, when the students were allowed to take the dual major courses, those students who signed for Business Administration majors were not able to take the first major courses due to the limited access to the courses.

School of business suffered from student overloads in courses from the dual major system. "Since the school of business is one of the popular majors, students in other programs or departments wish to take the dual major in school of business. As a result, students in the dual major system as well as students who originally admitted for school of business were not able to take courses," said Lee Dae-gun (BA-05), the president of the College of Business and Economics Student Council. This implies that the dual major is a contradiction to the intention of the system, treating both students as the same.

Again, the credit issue applies to this situation, too. In Business Administration, the minimum graduate credit is 42. However, for dual majors, students should take 12 more credits and complete the total of 54 credits. Some students can take 42 credits and graduate but some have to take 54 credits. By operating the dual major system, the equality of credits is an issue.

"The university should consider these conflicts seriously as the first priority and should execute properly," Lee added.

For the College of Education (CE), only students in this department can choose a dual major in the College of Education, and others can't. Previously, CE students were allowed to take the second major in the college. In the College of Education, students graduate with a teaching certification. If the students did the second major in CE, those students receive the second degree and another certificate for teaching in the middle school.

However, the scheme is about to change due to the dual major system. When a student majoring English Education choose a dual major course as a French Education, he or she will receive two teaching certificate. However, there is a contradiction on this issue. The first major offers a teaching certificate to 100 percent of students, while the dual major department provides only for 75 percent of the students. Thus, students are absolutely guaranteed to receive English teaching certificate, but not for French education.

#### Maintain, but with full development

The university stands for students and provide diverse educational service to students. However, if the service is only available for a few students and given without a right of choice, is this the place for the students to study? The dual major system is to decoy future freshmen. In spite of the inconvenience and difficulties at present, the university is more focusing on the long term effect.

The reason for the mandatory dual major system is to provide a deep breath to the uniqueness of Hufs and diverse languages. "What Hufs presents is the combination of the language and non-language area. When students are well trained for language as well as other non-language areas and present the good image of Hufs, more intelligent students will come to Hufs" said the Dean of Academic Affairs. However, before even focusing on the long term goal, Hufs should focus more on current issues.

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be done, then the university won't be ready for the dual major system, and the students will be suffering from limited options available.

Not only linguistic departments are facing challenges. The interdisciplinary major subjects, such as BRICs, Northeast Asian, culture contents, and EU, are lack of the number of courses relative to other majors. Last year, the interdisciplinary major's graduate credit was 42, but since dual major system is introduced, Hufsans should fulfill up to 54 credits. However, this interdisciplinary major in the university does not require the minimum credits, but students are able to gain by going abroad. For BRICs, students can take 32 credits on campus excluding the duplicates and from foreign institutions, students can get 10 additional credits.

This is mandatory for interdisciplinary majors. However, it is still only 42 credits total and more than 10 credits should be taken to satisfy requirements. For Northeast Asian, only 30 credits can be taken on campus, but it does not fulfill the requirements. However, among those interdisciplinary majors, only culture contents require 54 credits in four years but as stated above, students do not have a choice and conflicts still remain.



# Through movies, they speak



Back Song-hyun / The Argus

**By Baek Song-hyun**

*Reporter of The Argus*

Everyone has a hobby of their own. When people ask what the hobby the others have, most answers would be watching movies. However, when people are focusing on the screen itself, there are students who are more interested in making films; YoungHwaWoolim.

The *dongari* was first established in 1970s and was assigned as HUFs official one. Since this *dongari* is very old and traditional many movie directors were born from YoungHwaWoolim. A movie director from "A millionaire's first love" and "Romance of their own" Kim Tae-gyun and a director of "A little monk" Ju Kyoung-joong were the founder of this *dongari*.

As university students, they gather not only because of the similarities in hobbies but to evoke other students sympathy. YoungHwaWoolim creates their own movies by their own hands from writing scenarios to the actual directing part. YoungHwaWoolim directs so that they can express their thoughts, feelings on special aspects and send messages through the movies.

**Reporter (R): What is the inner meaning of YoungHwa Woolim?**

Park Jun-yong: This *dongari*

was first founded in 1970s which was the time of the military regime. During that time many people were suffering from poverty and lack of hope in their lives. So our seniors thought that we could give them the feeling of warmth and cheer by making movies. In those days our YoungHwaWoolim movies were meant to inspire people and act as a spokesman.

**Lee Tae-gyu:** YoungHwaWoolim is actually a composition of two words, YoungHwa and Woolim. These two words are different senses. YoungHwa is a sense that you can observe through the eyes while Woolim is what you can hear. By putting a sense of sight and hearing together, they create a synesthesia.

**Lee Ga-ram:** When I first heard YoungHwaWoolim, I thought of the characteristics of both movies and *dongari*. When I think of a good movie, the first condition is whether the movies give audience a aftertaste or not. In *dongari* meaning, it's saying that "We are making the movies that will give you the aftertaste and express our thoughts freely."

**R: When writing a scenario, where do you get the inspiration?**

**Yoon Jun-chul:** In my case, I write scenarios based on the things I did, my thoughts and ideas on particular subjects such as social issues, or my friends' views can be used too.

**Lee Tae-gyu:** This is very different among our members because we don't have the same opinions. For me, my scenarios are more based on my thoughts, feelings and notions.

**Oh Ga-hyun:** I find my items through daily local or international news. Nowadays the most significant themes that can be dealt in our movies would be South Korea and North Korea summit conference and abduction in Afghanistan.

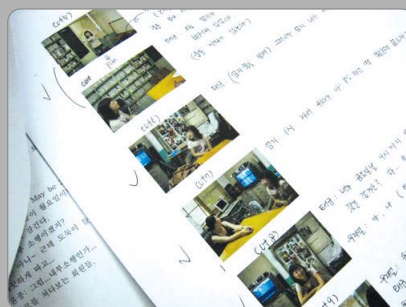
**R: What kind of movie do you wish to direct?**

**Uriaeol:** I want to deal dream, fantasy, and trans-fiction types of movies. These may seem very light topics but it can be directed in heavy topic movies when I show the inner feelings of people. Basically the movies we think should be able to portrait the psychology of people and these are the things we would like to try it in the movies.

**R: Except directing the movies, is there anything YoungHwaWoolim do specially?**

**Lee Min-ah:** Before the movie is written in scenario we outline the basic idea and personally visit the movie corporation. The corporation gives us the information and tips on how to visualize it. Also YoungHwaWoolim members sometimes go to the film festival as a guest and critic or learn the knowledge on directing films.

**Kim Yeo-un:** Besides our *dongari*



activities, since many seniors who were the part of this YoungHwaWoolim became famous movie directors, we also advertise their newly movies to the students. We had some chances to show our own movies to the students but they weren't very successful. However to show a real film preview style we are trying to gather more students on September.

**R: YoungHwaWoolim has been running for over 30 years, what are the things that have changed or kept through the times?**

**Kim Yeo-un:** Back in the days, our *dongari* focused on very heavy social issues such as politics. Since the ages have changed we are looking forward in dealing with lighter issues. All of us have different views so we try to respect others and consider personality as a number one priority. As a result, our *dongari* is full of energy and freer than it used to be.

**Park Jun-yong:** Even we try to change there are some aspects that are kept for long time. For instance, we go to a movie workshop twice a year where we learn and acquire movie knowledge, but we are intending to this more frequently. Also, we have a studying period which the graduate seniors choose a subject on movie directing and visit to teach us. This is very beneficial and will activate it also.

**R: During the summer and winter vacations, YoungHwaWoolim focuses on directing the actual movie. What are the things YoungHwaWoolim did during the semester?**

**Lee Min-ah:** For the first semester, we more focused on gathering freshmen to our *dongari*. After that, our graduate seniors lecture begins throughout the semester.

**Kim Um-ji:** During the semester, we basically get ready for the movies in vacation period. We write scenarios over and over till it's perfect and seek for the place where it's appropriate for our next movie. The film is directed during the vacation but we work for that one movie all through the semester.

**R: What is the characteristic of university movies?**

**Lee Min-ah:** It's very closed to the public. The movies we direct are mostly shared among us. Also since it's not a corporation movie the biggest problem is budget issue since we borrow recording cameras and the instruments from others.

**Kim Yoon-jong:** The difference between university movies and corporation is that we can express our thoughts and feelings freely to the highest degree.

**Oh Ga-hyun:** The subject is very unique and unconventional relatively. We do not direct movies for the publicity and show business, thus the attempts we make are very unrestricted.

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## Join in



On August 15 early in the morning, YoungHwaWoolim at Imun campus were getting ready for the new movie they worked on last semester. The news said there will be a rain shower later on the afternoon, so the members were hurrying on the outside scenes before the rain comes. Not like other movies they directed, such as "obsessionist" and "virtual reality," YoungHwaWoolim is trying out a student movie happening in this *dongari*. This time all the members have their own characters compared to other pieces which they hired actors in school. The scenes are not directed in the order since editing process is able. Since the movie is only directed in one day actors frequently change clothes to give audience the idea of time change.

First scene is rolling with the director's powerful "action" shout. All the sudden the talks stopped and they were very into the directing. The scenes are very short; some are less than a minute and some slightly longer. However those short quick seconds the reporter of The Argus felt the seriousness and passion of the movies they have.

After shooting some outdoor scenes, they went back to the *dongari* room. Very small but cozy room was full with videotapes and various kinds of movie posters. The next scene is a group conversation. Since the room was very crowded with 10 students already in YoungHwaWoolim, the reporter of The Argus was standing around the corner trying hard not to disturb the camera angle and the movie. The members sat around the table murmuring their next line and the camera started rolling. However, YoungHwaWoolim is a student *dongari* so they do make mistakes; some students forgot their lines, and some couldn't stop laughing. Even a scene is filmed already they shoot over and over again with different camera angles or actors position to get the best ones when editing. Since they are shooting scene by scene even a little props such as a glass of water shouldn't be moved. When the scene is getting ready to shoot the first thing YoungHwaWoolim checks is whether the props are in their position or not.

Even the movies YoungHwaWoolim directs are short motion pictures they try to cover everything as possible and precisely. The students who have passion and love for the movies are welcome. To make one short motion picture is not easy as it looks. Before the actual shootings YoungHwaWoolim worked for the whole semester gathering the sources and write scenarios, compose, gather actors, seeking for a place to shoot and so on. As university students the power and enthusiasm towards the movie is very huge. Directing a movie of their own and showing it to the students or attending the fair is YoungHwaWoolim's own way of expressing their thoughts to the others and furthermore the society.





# Net surf with homegrown browser bY HUFSan

"It is important to find a favorite field you want to spend all of your energy"



By **Kang Se-hoon**

Reporter of *The Argus*

Nowadays, the Internet becomes more essential for everyone. People connect to internet through web browsers. The Argus met Kim Jeung-ho (98-CSE) who developed Road Browser, a web browser you can use the Internet just like your own computer's web browser wherever you connect.

Though he has done many activities in the IT field, he was interested in filmmaking before entering HUFs. "I had had much interest in the cinema, especially computer graphics ever since I was a middle school student," he said. Because of his interest in films, he wanted to major in film studies. But he realized that he couldn't learn anything about computer graphics from being a film major, he finally decided to major in computer science and engineering at HUFs. He joined Netlaw, a company that services legal information, since 2000. Now he is a chief operating officer of NWS corp.

He participated in many activities in film or game clubs before getting a job, especially joining in world folk culture festival, Seminjeon, as a member of film club remained in his

memories. "I think such activities with many people helped getting a job and producing computer programs." Because of his interest in image processing, he published a book named "the fourth wave - digital image processing and editing."

When asked what was good or bad doing study and work together, he said he could experience various activities at the same time, and those activities were very good. "On the other hand, I had few time to study hard or date because I had to be a student and get a job at the same time." He is now not only taking classes but giving special lectures about digital images, personnel web and knowledge management for HUFs. He also stresses the importance of school lectures. "Honestly, I didn't know the importance of lectures in basic studies so called 'introduction' before getting a job. But I realized from the work that primary subjects during first and second year are very important."

He had a big dream of developing a system which will essential for future society before making Road. However, he was aware that it was literally too big a project to realize at all at once. For that reason, he started developing Road as a first step in making his dreamed system. Road is different from other browsers because it is based on a network system. Others just connect user to another server or network. But users of Road must login to Road's own server, and use its own

internet network. Furthermore, Road has advantages in personalizing a users' system and assisting information management.

Asked what was difficult when processing the program, he answered its system was not stabilized when Road was just made. When fixing the causes of errors and bugs, Road processing team worked all night. A new browser, the Road, was published on May 2007, and reaction from the market was "explosive." Using rate of the Road is still increasing continuously. Kim sets a goal spreading the software around the world, not just in Korea. "In fact, Korea is just a beginning for Road. Indeed, the software will be distributed in Korea. Road aims to become an international web browser." For making Road international software, his company does fieldworks and investigation about technology in the U.S..

He has two ambitions in his life. As a business man, he would like to establish a world-wide company, just like General Electronics. As a personal goal, he wants to search and study future technologies and culture. At the end of the interview, he gave messages HUFs "Just focus on study and date when you're young. At the time around graduation, find your favorite field where you work, where you want to spend your energy and go for it!"

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# Result of worthless struggle

By **Kim Eun-hye**  
Editor of *The Argus*

**S**ince the law on private school was revised, many schools faced problems. The main problem is the construction of a council. Until now, many schools have been running into trouble on this matter. The council should be organized to make a better school. Why is the council becoming a serious problem?

What is a council? According to the law on private school, a council is a group that should be established in each school. The council discusses important things on education: establishment and revision of school regulations, recommendations of trustee and audit, advice on school budget and accounts. It is composed of professors, students and staff members. Also, external members such as alumni or donors for the school are consisted in the council.

On last May, trustee committee of HUFS selected a bill on composing of the council and now they are waiting for approval of Education ministry. Until the bill to be selected, HUFS negotiations for construction of the council have had a hard time last year, because school members had not reached agreements. Finally the bill, which some not all members agreed on, was selected (five professors, two students, two staff members, one alumnus and one donor of school developing). A group that should be struggling to squeeze out ways to develop the school is already having trouble in its starting line. It gives us an advance notice that the council won't be managed smoothly.

It took a year to pass through the present bill on composing of the council, but even this was not based on agreement of all members. Ultimately HUFS adopted the current bill same as other school's bill on the reason that this composure was approved by the ministry. However, every school has various situations. All members have the right to speak their opinion and get a reasonable right from well-suited bill for HUFS. Of course construction of the council is very important and urgently needed. However, the council, which discusses important matter of education and the school, starts without any harmony, there are going to be problems consistently.

How is the new bill? There needs consideration on members that are selected outside of the school. Many schools have had difficulty on construction of the council on this matter, because increasing outside participation reduces the rate of necessary members from the inside. In the construction of council, there are no restrictions on choosing members such as alumni and donor of school's development.

Before the new bill was selected, there were four bills. And one of those was once chosen by all necessary members. However association of alumni disagreed because of the less ratio of their participation. Eventually donors for school development became a

member of the council. Students protested on the bill because the deal reduced student seats in the council.

Did they really need to reduce students' seats for donor's seats because the alumni opposed to the primary bill? It might be prejudice but outside members are likely to take side on with the foundation. Therefore, this kind of action reduces the chance of students on getting their voice out. Not only does it discuss various matters on the school, the council has a significant meaning of existence that it gives all members, professors, students and staff, the same right to make opinion. Through the council, students who always stood on the weak side get a minimum way of expressing their opinions.

The next problem, who should be the representative of students? The selected bill limited the number of student representatives to two. In the meantime, the side of students stuck to claim that the number of student representatives should be three: both campuses and graduate school representative. Now there is controversy between students on who should be the two representatives. The school opinion that is one student from each campus will be enough to represent the side of students, and the graduate school's opinions would be reflected through the two. However, the graduate school has a different idea. It argued that student representatives should consist of four students chosen from both under graduate and graduate school of both campuses.

As the students themselves have different opinions about the way of student representative selection, it is possible it will cause trouble, rather than harmony, within students competing to be representatives.

It is hard to make invalid, an already selected proposal is waiting for the approval of the Education Ministry. Last year's case shows that difficulty well. Though the council has a meaning as a democratic organization for school development, however, it is great pity that agreements were not made in proper process.

The council should not be used as a tool for gaining power over each other. There needs consistent look out over how the council breaks through from this squeaky starting point.

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# Way too **gay** for you?

By Yi Sung-ae

Reporter of *The Argus*

**A**t Boston College, there was a rally to raise rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students. It was an activity that started with a small group of LGBT and straight students which ended up with the whole school participating. This rally caused a huge effect not only on campus but around the community, opening up minds toward LGBT people. Wishing that someday schools and groups could do the same in Korea, we decided to do an interview with a Korean LGBT student who goes by the pseudonym, Sillytree. Sillytree is a gay member of "People to People." People to People is Korea University's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer club. He was even president for it in 2006. He shared much in hope of helping more students to understand LGBTs the right way.

**Reporter (R): What does People to People do?**

**Sillytree (ST):** People to People is a LGBT club at Korea University. It is a club for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students attending school here. We are one of the few LGBT clubs officially recognized by the school along with Seoul National University and Ehwa Womens University.

As an LGBT club, we help students, who are still hesitating, to come out of the closet, adjust to their new lives, help straight

students to better understand our lives, and work together with other human right groups for women, handicaps, and other minorities. We actively participate in as much as we can as a university group. More than anything, we put the greatest meaning of this club in its existence and that we continue to work within it.

**R: What are activities done on campus to get word out?**

**ST:** We have a year round program for that. In the spring, we hold an annual event called, The P2P spring Fling. This year it was "The P2P Spring fling 2007: Fags don't cry" where lectures about queers are given, various queer films and shows are shown, and exhibitions are held. The program changes every year and this year, the event was about queer movies. As mentioned above, it was called "Fags don't cry." We showed "Transamerica" and "Imagine me & you." This event started in 2006 and was held again this year for the second time. The second biggest event is the Ko-Yon fest in the fall. The Ko-Yon fest is a tradition between Korea University and Yonsei University. The two schools play games and sports against each other in healthy competition. The one we do in the fall is for the gay community. School clubs from all over Seoul city get together and have a good time showing off what they've got. Last time People to People did a parody music video of Madonna's Hung up and it was hilarious! The fact is, many university LGBT clubs

come to this event, so calling it the Ko-Yon fest doesn't make much sense anymore. It's just because it has been called that a long time ago when it was just the two schools participating. We would love to put on more public events, but it still isn't that easy. Other than that, in November we print and hand out magazines. It is filled with stories that will help straights understand queers better. The stories are written by our members and the book is called, the Queer Guide. Because we have more gay members, there are more gay stories.

**R: How did People to People get started?**

**ST:** Nobody knows exactly how, but it is said that in the mid 90's, the American media began to broadcast many queer shows and that is when Korea started to take notice as well. So, the Korean media started to talk about queers in a very vague and erroneous way. As people started to become more interested in human rights and in order to spread correct information about LGBTs, people started to gather and that is how People to People started off.

**R: What are some other activities you do off campus and in the society?**

**ST:** Before, we participated in things like human rights camps for teen queers and sexual minorities. We always try to continue similar events even though people are busier and do not have much time as they did before. Only upon those who are willing to, we also help do surveys on LGBTs given by the Democratic Labor Party.

**R: Is there anything different in particular with your school life from that of straight students?**

**ST:** No, because most gays do not go around telling people that they are gay, our lives are just the same as straight students. If we don't say anything, nobody can find out. Actually, it is easier to be gay in Korea. The



Queer Guide created by People to People and the official magazine for the 8th Korea Queer Culture Festival



reason is because nobody takes much notice. In other countries people express their like or hate, but Koreans do not really pay attention to the subject. This may be better or worse. It is better because whatever we do, people do not know. It could be worse because there isn't an exact point to start telling people who we really are.

**R: What kind of prejudice do straight students have against LGBTs?**

**ST:** First, people think that becoming gay is a choice. People ask us questions as, why did you become gay? The answer is, we didn't. Secondly, it is wrong to generalize queers. For example, thinking that all queers are feminine is not right. The spectrum of types of gays is very wide. Some may be very feminine and some very macho. You never know. The guy sitting right next to you might be gay too. Third, what people say about gays being the reason for AIDS is a misconception. Fourth, gays are not perverts. This means that gays are not sex addicts. Gays do not always think in that way. We also think of pure and beautiful love like any other couple.

**R: What do gays think of religion?**

**ST:** From a positive point of view, faith is in one's heart. There are many gays who have religion. I think it is a matter of interpreting the bible. For instance, the Old Testament says that women shouldn't socialize. However, many women have jobs and their voices are being heard. When the world is so supportive about that, why are gays still being annoyed by what is said in the Old Testament? Religion can be reinterpreted. Therefore, I also have a religion. Still, many queers have a hard time making up their mind and eventually go back to their old lives.

**R: Is the military a problem for queers?**

**ST:** Yes and no. No, because many gays want to be treated the same as straights so they simply serve the military. Some gays do not serve the military saying that it is a mental illness. However, it is for those who go, but have a hard

time making it through. To gays, the way the military is run is just like living with the opposite sex. Once there was an issue that aroused much anger from gays and human rights activists that did not make the headlines. A gay decided to tell a higher officer that he couldn't take it anymore and that he wanted to leave for such reason. The officer agreed but told him to bring him proof that violated human rights. He told the gay soldier to bring him a picture of him having sex with a male partner. There are still such crimes happening.

**R: In your view, what are some conceptual or systematical changes that need to be made?**

**ST:** In my opinion, the nation must put more effort into diversity and human rights in the country. For example, Britain has a wonderful policy toward respecting queers. Even though there are people who are still against gays, Britain itself is trying to change the social notion.

**R: To wrap it up, is there anything you would like to say to our readers?**

**ST:** LGBTs do not want to fight. We also do not want people to support or have sympathy for us. Just like how everybody wants to be known and accepted for who they are, what we really want is for people to know who we are correctly. Rather than just covering up the subject and ignoring what we have to say, the society should try to understand us first. To learn how we are different and listen to each other. It wouldn't be too late to hate after then. What's needed to be focused on is not about LGBT's rights, but about being accepted for who we are.

Through the interview, one can understand clearly what LGBTs want is not for people to support or fight for their rights. They are no different from the rest of us and therefore do not like the idea of being treated differently. If you take a step further and look in closer you would be able to see that the most important thing is to accept them as the same, just like you and me.

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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007 EDITION  
**BCHEIGHTS.COM**  
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BOSTON COLLEGE

## Feeling Blue Rally For Equality Draws Hundreds

By Carolyn Mattus Height Senior Staff

It started with a small contingent of students eventually growing to a procession numbering upward of 1,500 people marching through campus. The Rally and Strike for Equality in support of adding sexual orientation to the University's nondiscrimination clause drew throngs of students, professors, and other members of the BC community to come together in solidarity. UGBC vice president and A&S '05, Chris Young went onstage to share his thoughts on the rally, gay rights, and their experiences with discrimination. Young recalled his hesitation to enroll at BC due to its homophobic reputation as reported by Princeton Review rankings and the nature of the University's nondiscrimination clause. He changed his mind, however, when he met a gay student while visiting campus. The student encouraged him to enroll, saying that being a gay student at BC would not be easy, but that he would be glad for making the decision. That welcoming gesture played a big role in Young's decision, he said. The rally attracted not only students, but also professors, deans, and other members of the administration, who were moved by the speakers' testimonies. Jack Dunn, University spokesman, commended the way today's rally was handled by all those involved. "Today's rally demonstrates the passion that many students feel for this issue, which they view as a civil rights matter," he said. "They were articulate and respectful, and we appreciate the way they handled themselves." Nick Salter, A&S '07, who is one of the students in negotiations with University officials about the nondiscrimination clause, said the rally provided other students with an outlet to voice their concerns and feel empowered. "We can't all be at the negotiating table, but both the rally and strike provided an opportunity for the average BC student to participate in this issue," said Salter. "I think the most important thing is that students come together on this issue, feel empowered, and know that they have a responsibility to work for change on this campus."

# No introspection no reform



**By Mun Hyeon-gyeong**

*Editor of The Argus*

**T**he war is started at not only theater but also press room. President Roh Moo-Hyun adopted a plan to shut down most of press rooms in the government offices. According to his new plan, so-called “advanced coverage and reporting system,” the government closed existing press rooms and built new briefing rooms in the Government Complex in Seoul and Gwacheon. Also, reporters will be allowed to access the press room only when they get the permission from the government.

Reporters lashed against the governmental action claiming that it will block the flow of information to the public. And they added that the policy can encroach on the media’s free coverage by limiting their access to sources from the government.

Meanwhile, some civic groups and minor media have doubts about journalist’s counter-argument. They criticize that the backlash is just an excuse for fear of losing their influence and convenient cause to say “we media should protect freedom of the press and people’s right to know what is happening around the government.”

If the new action infringe upon the public’s right to know and the freedom of speak, as journalists asserted, it must be a serious problem. Then, one question is raised to the press; the press room has been really conducted its genuine role to monitor the government and to protect the people’s right so far. The exclusive press room has rather been used to sustain the close relationship between the press and the political power holders.

Once in the past time, the president could control the press. The general condition, however, has changed. Nowadays, power of the press has strengthened enough to suppress and distort the fact if they want. Sometimes it seems that there is no supervisor who can monitor the media. It is guessed that the big power of media in the exclusive press room may be corrupted. This is actualized when some major media discuss and decide whether the issues are covered as article or not. Some significant issues, on the other hand, can be ignored if the media indifferently regard the issues.

For this reason, it is necessary to stamp out depraved running of press room in an attempt to break so-called

“information cartel” led by journalist’s corps of capital-based major media. All information and news should be opened to all reporters including minor and local media.

It is not acceptable that the government bulldoze ahead the plan to solve the problem of degenerated press room. It is especially needed to reconsider the measure that allows only registered reporters in the agency to attend news briefings excepting unregistered reporters. In a course of the permission, it may be occurred; the depraved close relationship between press and government officials, discrimination on the minor and local medias.

“I recognized that problems in the press room involving illegal collusion and unbalance of sharing information among journalists. But, it may cause another problems to block reporter’s coverage and enforce to report only by e-mailing and uniform briefing just like a parrot,” said one anonymous newspaper reporter whom the Argus met.

It is hard to judge which side is right or wrong on the “advanced coverage and reporting system.” It is necessary for the press and the government to reveal their faults in public. It seemed that they must have time of self-examination and ill-running management.

The government should examine and root out not only exclusive and depraved press room but also absent-minded officials, not claiming just integrate press room. It is also needed to reconsider that preventing any unauthorized visits from reporters without any discussion with press and the publics.

In addition, the government should eliminate exclusive running and discrimination on minor and local media, actually has been taken place at the Chongwadae, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Reunification.

When it comes to the press, journalists have to confess briefing room’s abuses and collusion of the media. To make reasonable opposition to the administration’s plan, the media have to carry out press reform. It is required for the genuine journalists to make self-reflection to peel off the press room-staying-reporter’s disgrace and normalize unclean relationship with political power holders.

It is time to quit the meaningless struggle between the two powers, and is needed to introspect themselves.

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Yeo Hee-soo / The Argus

# New labor laws not a blessing for workers

The adjusted law is about to act; yet has much trouble

By **Kim Min-ji**

Reporter of *The Argus*

**T**he E-land clash” illustrated many problems of law on irregular workers. The well-known problems occurred and affects are thought by many to suppress laborers. But it goes on, and many concerns such as the continuation of the frequent cancellation of contracts occurred. There is a different legal issue that may cause another so-called, “E-Land clash.” It is the amendment of an act regarding arbitration by

authorities that is scheduled for next year. The new act has as much trouble as the one before. Workers are concerned that it may lead to “new incidences of suppression towards labor” follow recent struggles.

## Process to revise the law

Korean Railway Workers’ Union (KRWU) started negotiation with Korea Railroad (KR) in March, 2006, but failed to reach a compromise. Unions went on strike for three days. The strike was deemed illegal due to new arbitration laws of authorities. Because of this, the union leaders were dismissed, fired and charged for



damages. This illustrates problems with the arbitration system. Because the negotiations failed, the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), which is a committee that belongs to the Ministry of Labor and their main role is the adjustment of labor straggles, declared the parties in the dispute must submit for arbitration. Then the unions are not allowed to go on strike for 15 days and doing so is deemed illegal.

One of the problems of the law is the uncooperative managements' attitude towards the negotiation process. They expect unions to be unable to go on strike due to this new arbitration law. It causes difficulty in settling issues between laborers and employers without the intervention of thirds parties. The system not only prohibits the unions from calling a strike but results in negotiations breaking down due to managements' insincere attitude. That means the government and management are equally to blame for the strike as the laborers who have been punished.

The second is that the arbitration is restricting the right of strike, the last measure and right of laborers. It is difficult for them to demand their improvement on working condition and any rights to live in case they cannot go on strike.

Also, it is an old-fashioned system enacted in 1953 when the right of the laborers was not yet guaranteed. It has kept on and on with no meaning for society until now. Many have criticized it for restricting the strike earlier and International Labor Organization (ILO) urged to abolish this unreasonable system.

The Ministry of Labor studied methods for developing the law and system in the Labor Relations starting from May, 2003. It gave notice on July, 10, 2007 that Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act including arbitration by authority would legislate and the act is going to take effect from January, 2008.

According to the revised bill, it is said that the arbitration by authority is abolished in order to harmonize the right for strike with protection of the public with an international standard. The workers in essential public service areas are expected to call a strike legally for the right not being restricted earlier if only they pass through

regular procedures with this system abolished.

It is natural for the laborers, the core of the strike, to celebrate this new law. Rather, they are worried about the future. "The arbitration system considerably obstructs the labor rights, while the adjustment act deprives of it. Also, it is expected not to go on strike itself from next year," Lee Chan-bok, the chief of the external affair in Korail workers' union said. What on earth is the adjustment act? What makes the laborers suffering?

### **Ambiguity of the standard on expanded essential public service workplaces**

Under this provision of the Act, the government added several utility providers, such as flight transportation, steam and hot-water supply, blood supply, and waste water and sewage treatment to be defined as essential services. This contradicts advice that the ILO gave prior to the amendment.

The organization said that rail and oil industries are not included as essential services in the strict sense of term. It defined the essential services as businesses providing services which are essential for the sake of the life or the physical safety.

But the government took it wrongly, in case a stop or an abolition of the work makes ordinary life of the public remarkably dangerous, it threatens the national economy, and a replacement services are not easy to come by. It is irrational to include the railroad in the necessary areas against the advice of ILO. That's because stopping the work during the strike doesn't influence much on one's life and transportation areas have enough substitutions like other transportation services buses and the air industry. The labor rights can be restricted once again as the government enlarges the essential public service areas with its own standard.

### **The new bill, essential service**

"Essential service, which makes it risky for the public to live a daily life or keep their body healthy in case that operations are stopped or abolished," the administration provided. Also, it announced



Union members as well as the leaders can be disciplined under the adjusted act.

that "this should be performed continually during the strike, and the unions pay a fine, less than 30 million won when they violate the provision." That is, the labor unions who work in essential public service places should keep its numbers minimal as to the necessary businesses going on strike.

However, most of the services are under essential works, which almost are unable to come out strike. This means the areas have been expanded and the strike influences almost nowhere.

The unions demand that the scale of the essential services need to be settled as long as not violating the right of health and life. It needs to be limited only when it causes the public to feel uncomfortable as the works are stopped.

### **Restrictions on the three basic labor rights**

The union leaders resolved to be restricted before they started a strike when the former system existed. Because of the arbitration system the strike has been regarded as unlawful, but the struggle could have kept going through the determination of the leaders.

However, from now on, the disciplinary action will affect union members

individually as well as their leaders. In fact, it is impossible for most workers to go on strike with the risk of their lives as they risk disciplinary measures or dismissal or get pay cuts. It leads almost not to call strikes as they do now, and many unions are concerned that they will be unable to strike itself from next year when the act takes effect. If so, the struggles are supposed to have no power any more.

Moreover, as the necessary works introduce, some workers go on strike and others don't do it even if they are doing same work. That's why the three basic rights-to organize, bargain collectively and strike-are to be ignored and disregarded.

### Keeping the workers running their work

The new act forces about 50 percent laborers to keep the work places operating while the unions on the public service company start a strike. It is called "Replacement of strike workers." The parts other than these essential areas' struggles are allowed the workers to supply the lack of places. For example, the from 70 to 80 percent of the laborers go on strike and 30 percent keep their works running. Then half of the strikers or only 35 percent of all workers struggle in the end.

One of the Korail unions, Lee said, "The purpose of the walkout is to attain the laborers' demand against the employers and influence them enormously by stopping their works. But their needs can't be realized as the half of the strikers is running the businesses and it means working operation doesn't get many effect from their struggles."

On the other hand, many say that it is fit for a standard in global and many other countries are using this. In case of U.S., they recognize this positively, but it is limited to the economic strikes, which are for the improvement of working condition, asking for the higher pay or shortening their working time. It is restricted to dismiss workers due to their strikes.

### "It is a rough-and-ready law"

As mentioned above, the new act, which the government is scheduled to bring the act into effect, puts pressure on the laborers. "It is very hasty law. It is doubtful whether it takes effect in the right way. There is much difficulty in effectuating the law. It may cause struggles like E-land clash sooner or later," one of the unions said. Lee Jeong, the professor of the department of law said that by increasing the standards which the strikes are not allowed, laborers are suffering more and more. It is sure that the revised law is not different from the former though the government continually says the new one fits for international standard. That is, it is still suppressing the laborers with unreasonable act.

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## \* Interview with professor

A reporter of the Argus met a professor, Lee Jeong, department of Law to diagnose the new law and find a way for the law to advance.



“

The right of strike allows the laborers as minority to face the managements with equal

relationship, because it is in fact impossible for a worker to struggle against the employer. The strike is the ultimate way to demand the workers' claims. But the former system, the arbitration by authority had forbidden the right at the very beginning. It is not the same as mediation, which tries to end a quarrel between two people. It has the compulsory power. Some of the workers go on strike and all of the work places are to be arbitrated although it threatens little of works. Much management has been abusing this law many ways. Looking back on the law, Japan first made it before the Second World War and after finishing the war it was abolished. Korea, however, introduced it 1953 when the law of labor union first established and it has been kept on until now. Only after a half century, this law is abolished. I think it is good to abolish this system.

Besides, the essential public service utilities are expanded. The extent is very wide absurdly. It needs to be reduced within its core. By increasing the numbers of the places, the law forces the laborers not to start a strike. Also, when it comes to essential maintaining business, the range should be set as long as not violating the right for life. It is allowed to exercise in case the strike causes the public life to be uncomfortable. In addition, the limits can be different because the each work quality is not exactly same. It is necessary to settle guidelines of the act specifically with objective and reasonable view. All of the laws need to be enacted with field works, so that it realizes practically in our lives.

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By Kim Min-ji

By Yi Sung-ae  
Reporter of *The Argus*

# Same law, opp

Does anyone really know what is going on between labor and management? No agreements are being reached and strikes are continuing without any clue of when to end. The root of the problem is the law. As the law changed, more problems started to occur. Let's take a look into what each side has to say about the new law.

**Reporter (R): From the employer's point of view, what do you think of the modified labor law?**

**Lee Jun-Heui (Lee) :** It is not very important to the employer. It mostly is to the laborer. The former Arbitration by Authority Law was effective only ten percent of the time when it existed.

**R: Laborers are saying that they do not need a forced labor law because they have always provided minimal services for people while on strike. Could you please share with us what you think?**

**Lee:** This does not stop them from going on strike. They are only being asked to leave behind a certain amount of people to keep the place running. For example, essential services, like aviation, have an agreement between the employer and laborers

that allows the employer to temporarily replace the number of laborers who take strike action. The only thing that will be changing is that this system will be given a new name as, Replacement of Strike Workers. The amendment will now become a law and more work areas will have to comply with this system whether they like it or not. Also, the workers on strike will have to notify the employer where and when the strike will take place and the amount of people participating. This is for the employer to acknowledge approximately how many workers will have to be replaced. Why the Labor Ministry thinks this necessary is because even though laborers say they are taking care of minimum service, the minimum number needed has not been clarified. We must ensure work areas may not run well with sufficient workers. Laws are simply made to prevent errors from occurring.

**R: Laborers say that the Replacement of Strike Workers law will lower the effectiveness of strikes, is it true?**

**Lee:** No, it is not. However, it may be true for some work areas like the railroad service because many of the higher officers have licenses to drive trains. But typical companies they have the difficult task of hiring more staff. The replacements then have to be trained for six months. By the time they are ready to replace the workers, the strike is over. It is even harder, actually impossible, to replace professionals. Workers at hospitals, oil refineries, and blood services cannot be replaced so quickly. Those people need to be people who have been trained for a long time. This is law is just symbolic with no real effect.

**R: Laborers say that the increase of essential service**

**areas covered in the law and the Replacement of Strike Workers is inept for the Korean employer and laborer situation. What do you think?**

**Lee:** This statement is related to the Laborer and Employer Road Map. President Roh created the road map, which is based on the newly modified law above. It aims to take Korea's employer and laborer relationship another step further in development and globalization. Therefore, it is a change, not something that is absolutely wrong.

**R: The government, media, and the society may be isolating and suppressing laborers, is this so?**

**Lee:** From a wider perspective, it could be true. Since a long time ago, laborers have been looked upon as weak and wrong. There should be a new law that could balance the power between laborers and employers. However, the official assertion of the Korea Employer Federation is that laborers are no longer weak. That is because the Labor Ministry supports them with tax expenditure, and through commercialization, the labor union earns about 60 billion won a year. On the other hand, the Korean Employer Federation does not receive much support from the Labor Ministry and relies mostly on membership fees, earning only 10 billion won annually.

**R: Is there anything that you would like to say?**

**Lee:** In the contracted law, both the employers and the laborers must be able to find an agreement point and solve problems. Please do not think of the problem between the employers and the laborers as a left and right political issue. It is a conflict between two sides trying to profit. It would be better to look at the situation from a different perspective.



Lee Jun-Heui, Specialist, Legal Affairs Team, Policy Bureau Korea Employers Federation



# osite directions

**Reporter (R): What do you think about the modified Arbitration by Authority Law?**

**Yi Sang-Hoon (Yi):** Rather than saying that the Arbitration by Authority Law has been modified, it would be better to say that it has been expanded. Before expanding the law, work areas were divided into companies that could threaten the lives of people, called essential services, and those that could cause inconvenience and lower economic capabilities for people, called public utility.

The law took effect in the essential service areas, disabling them to go on strike. On the other hand, Emergency Arbitration took place in public utilities, still letting them protest. But, if there was no progress between the workers and the employers in public utilities within fifteen days, further strikes would become illegal and the Arbitration by the Authority Law would take place. Now, the so-called modified law combines the two areas and calls it essential service. This change will allow both the new law and the Emergency Arbitration to take place in both areas making it harder for laborers to fight for their rights. The expanded law has three parts. It is called the Three Step Regulation. The first part is a law that forces a certain percent of laborers to keep the company running for the people while the others go on strike. This definitely reduces the effectiveness of strikes. The second part hires substitute laborers to work for behalf of the employees on strike. This takes the laborers another step closer to losing their jobs. The last step tries to prevent the strike with Emergency Arbitration, putting the strike to an obligatory halt for fifteen days. The modified law is full of repetition of how to stop strikes.

We prefer the old law. What use is a strike if there is a law to stop every move we make?

**R: Employers say strikes are just as effective for it is impossible for them to train new employees during the short strike periods. Do you have anything to say against the assertion?**

**Yi:** Creating a negative effect for the employers cannot be looked upon as a problem. That is the definition and goal of strike. The law that enables employers to hire new employees makes it so that former laborers have no place to go. The whole idea does not fit ILO standards.

**R: Does it mean what President Roh said about developing the relationship between laborers and employers does not make any sense?**

**Yi:** No. First of all, there is no other country that has the Emergency Arbitration and essential service applied at the same time. Doing just that makes it impossible for strikes to carry on. This is the Three Step Regulation I talked about earlier. The second point is that Korea is not following ILO requirements. The requirements include areas where essential services take place and where minimum service does. Essential services are needed to stop strikes when it threatens the peoples' lives. In Korea, they are not only applying the system to requirements of the ILO, but also everywhere they think necessary.

**R: It seems like the modified law is not taking in the whole scene, what do you think about it?**

**Yi:** Reality is that the law is preferential to one side to oppress strike. The new system says that they are obliging a percentage of laborers to work even when on strike for the good of the people. However, definite information on how much negativity the strike causes to the people is never shown. Say there are 100 hospitals in the area and only one went on strike. The patients there can go to the other

99 hospitals. However, the media and press only focus on what is happening in the one hospital. They only try to report strike as a bad thing.

**R: Some say that labor strikes are a mere show to advertise the labor group, what about this?**

**Yi:** That does not make any sense at all. By going on strike, we strongly ask for our rights while fighting for the best for the community, a nice working environment, and a raise (we would be lying if laborers do not think about that). This is all for the better. For example, if doctors or pilots are over worked and exhausted, there would be higher possibilities of accidents occurring. Once labor standards go up, the rest will naturally follow. Most of the time, the conservative media is saying that all strikes are only for pay raises.

**R: Is there anything you would like to say?**

**Yi:** I wish we could all rethink the rights of laborers. This country does not protect many of our rights. In France, the president takes a lead and asks the French people to join him in letting strikes to continue. It would be hard for everyone in the country to become one and help fight for labor rights, but I think people can take some time to think about the situation.

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Yi Sang-Hoon, Director, Policy Department  
Korean Confederation of Trade Unions

# Blackhole to illness

Although it is not treated as illness now, game addiction brings plenty of troubles

**By Kang Se-hoon**

*Reporter of The Argus*

**D**ue to the fast growth of the game industry, people have more access to play games such as computer games, online games, video games, and mobile games anywhere recently. The game industry is now supporting national economy and also offers healthy leisure. For those positive effects, many people get more interested in games.

In spite of the positive effects, side effects are caused when people spend too much time on playing games. Several people may have heard about the term “game addiction,” which means playing games too much or negative effects of the games. In the medical world, psychologists discussed whether that game addiction is a serious issue or not. In the American Medical Association, which is one of the American medical societies, there were debates over whether to include game addiction in the mental disease handbook of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) or not in July 23 in 2007. Game addiction can not be checked with psychiatric diagnosis because that is not an official mental disease. If the danger of games has

been recognized, why is not game addiction identified as an official mental disorder?

## Diagnosis and Symptoms

Generally psychiatric diagnosis and treatment is performed with “The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual,” which is a handbook for the mental health professional and is published by the APA. The handbook describes different types of mental disorder and suggests the criteria for diagnosing them. The diagnosis for game addiction is not identified in the book now and the term, “game addiction” has not been academically defined in the medical society. Doctors diagnose patients for treating the addiction with counsel using questions suggested in the handbook. Those are for checking not only how much the patient plays games, but also how much problems the patient may have on life, home, or social activities.

There are physical and mental dangers and side effects of game addiction: near-sightedness, extreme tiredness, bad blood circulation, headache, insomnia, emotional disturbance, getting violence, irregular life, study disorder, and social phobia. Besides those mentioned above, there are a number of unpredictable syndromes. For example, first, Visual Display Terminal

(VDT) Syndrome, caused by stiff body hurts the neck, shoulder, and wrist. Second, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, which is originated from the overuse of wrists causes severe pain in the wrist.

## Connection between reward pathway and addiction

Playing game affects brain like alcohol or nicotine. It accelerates secretion of dopamine, which is a substance that relays electrical signals between a neuron and another cell in the brain. Dopamine stimulates reward pathway. That is how someone feels happy. Reward pathway, also known as the mesocortical pathway, is a neural pathway that connects the ventral tegmentum to the cortex, particularly the frontal lobes. It is one of the four major dopamine pathways in the brain. The reward pathway is essential for our survival, and is itself a very powerful mechanism with regards to choice, and behavior. Unfortunately, it is also vulnerable to becoming hijacked by substances, such as drugs and alcohol.

When the dopamine stimulates the brain, a man becomes happy. However, if the dopamine secretes too much, later stronger stimulation is necessary in order to create the same pleasure from the former time. Experts who consider the game addiction as a mental illness insist that the game disease shows the similar course and symptom of substance dependence as compared to addiction.





### The reasons game addiction is not identified as a mental disease.

The symptom of behavioral dependence including game addiction is repeating the same behavior. By repeating the behavior, an addict would be in troubles on someone's social function. Unlike substance, behavioral dependence is not approved for mental disease as long as the controversy does not reach an agreement. It means that all behavioral dependence is not a mental illness. Therefore, game addiction can not be identified as a disease itself, according to the professionals and experts in the related area. They worried that if game addiction is declared as a mental disease, similar behavioral dependence such as Internet, mobile phone, television addiction, and so on will be also considered as a type of disease. It will be hard to prepare diagnoses for each one. For declaring behavioral dependence as a mental disease, it needs social discussion and acceptance from the whole society.

Normally psychiatric treatment American diagnosis is worldwide standard and even Korea adopts the diagnosis. In Korea, side effects and danger of game addiction are socially well known to people. In contrast, in the U.S., the argument does not appear obviously in the society, but the medical group started raising the issue. Kim Deuk-hwan, who is a chief of Internet addiction treatment team on Internet Addiction Treatment Center, said "Game addiction is not a matter in the U.S. because there are more serious teenager problems such as drugs and guns to be solved. Thus, game addiction is not yet considered as a serious social issue. For that reason, game addiction isn't actively argued." It is one of the reasons why game addiction is not classified under the disease yet.

Because the diagnosis can be changed by social arguments, a lot of lobbies or movements to achieve their purpose intervene while psychiatric diagnosis is being made. Now the game companies in the U.S.

argued that the voice to classify game addiction as a disease is just an allergic reaction to the game. Considering the process of making psychiatric diagnosis, the opinion from the game company does not incorporate with medical knowledge. But is expressed due to worry about the damage to the business if game addiction becomes an illness.

### Factors needed for accurate diagnosis, treatment

In Korea, danger of game addiction is well known, the government has tried to prevent and adequately treat game addiction. The Korea Youth Counseling Institute, a government-run counseling and research institute for preventing and solving youth issues, makes an effort to prevent the Internet and game addiction. Game companies are struggling for sound game play with campaigns too. However, the U.S. socially understands the side effects of games. Therefore, Korean psychiatric treatment using the U.S. handbook can not diagnose game addiction properly too.

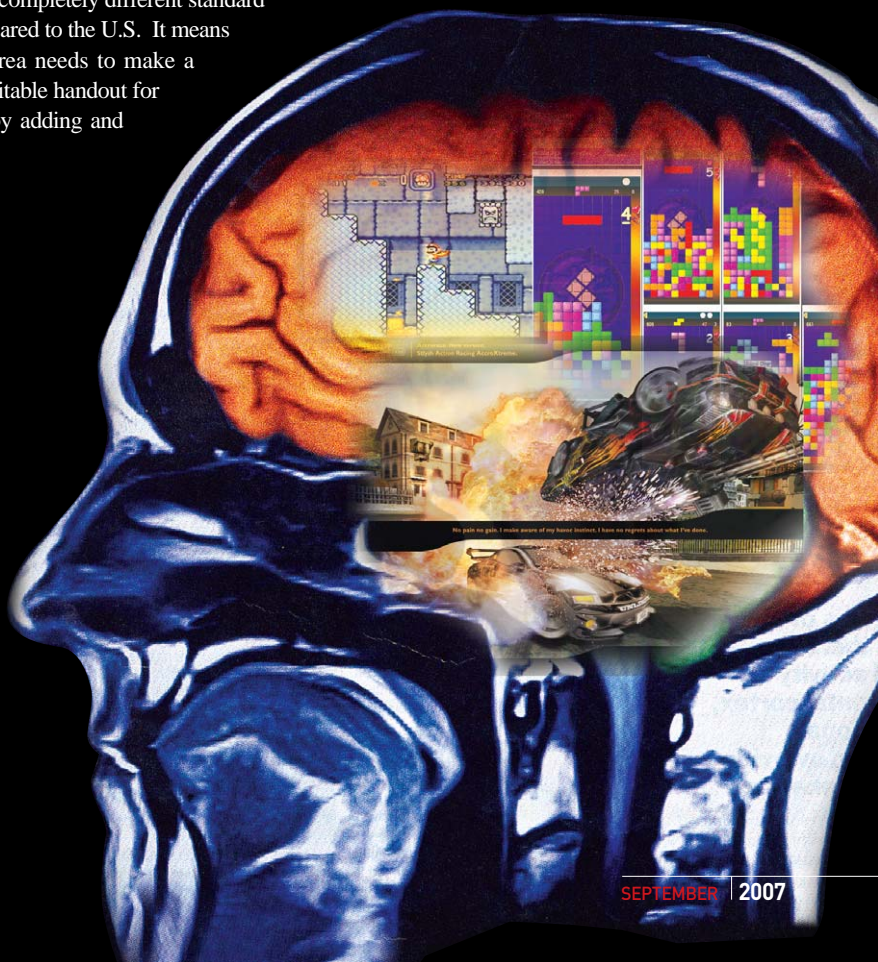
In order to diagnose and treat properly in Korea, a suitable standard should be developed first. It does not mean that Korea needs a completely different standard as compared to the U.S. It means that Korea needs to make a more suitable handout for Korea by adding and

revising the U.S. handbook. This will help Korean doctors diagnose and treat easily and properly.

Besides adding game addiction to the standard, Internet, mobile, and television addictions which are similar to game addiction should be able to be diagnosed by the view of psychiatric treatment. Lee Heon-jeong, a psychiatrist of Korea University Anam Hospital, said, "If game addiction is identified as a disease, method of checking symptoms must be developed. Therefore, it is to make the standard check symptoms similar with game addiction together."

At last, the handbook could be changed by related groups' lobbies or movements. If game companies do not approach to this debate with medical basis, but for their profit, they must be strongly criticized. Also, if there are doctors who try to make game addiction an illness for his or her personal reasons such as research publications. They should re-think about what is a real medical progress rather than considering their self-achievement.

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# Difference does not but

**By Kang Se-hoon**  
Reporter of *The Argus*

Less than 200 Spanish encountered 80,000 Inca soldiers on November 16, 1532 at the Peruvian highland town of Cajamarca. The outnumbered Inca soldiers were in their populated homeland, which gave them some advantages. In contrast, 168 Spanish soldiers, in fact they were in ragtag group, were in unfamiliar terrain, ignoring the local inhabitants, and completely out of touch with the nearest Spaniards. In spite of those disadvantages, Spanish soldiers won the battle and Inca Emperor Atahualpa surrendered.

## Encounter between two civilizations

By weaving together excerpts from eyewitness accounts by six companions of Francisco Pizarro, the commander of Spanish soldiers, less than 200 Spanish defeated thousands of Indians in a head-on attack. They could beat the Indians easily when natives were confused by noises made from guns and horses. Atahualpa answered 7,000 were killed when asked how many soldiers died in the battle after being captured by the Spanish. At last Atahualpa was executed by Spanish.

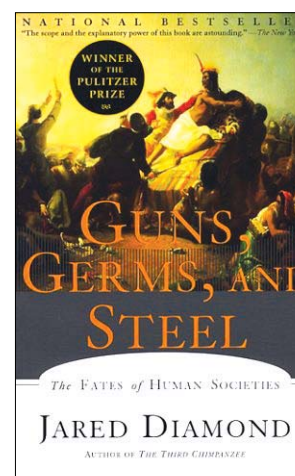
After the battle, white people began governing, colonizing, and slaying the Indians. How could Pizarro gain a victory without losing even one fallen soldier? But why couldn't the Indian slay, colonize and govern whites? "Guns, Germs, and Steel"

suggests answers to these questions. Jared Diamond, the author of "Guns, Germs, and Steel," thought several factors, guns, or advanced arms, germs, and steel, which form almost all kinds of vehicles and machines cause inequality between whites and Indigenous peoples or any other groups.

## A question about unbalanced development

As Jared Diamond was studying about bird as a biologist in New Guinea, he was stimulated by a question that had been posed by Yali, a native New Guinean. During conversation, Yali asked him why blacks couldn't develop themselves compared with whites. Diamond realized that natives have biased opinion as well as whites do. The opinion is that genetic difference produces unbalanced development of civilizations. That's why he tried to discover what makes human races different. While they had conversations about whites and natives, Yali quizzed him "Howcome you white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people had little cargo of our own?"

The question itself seems simple enough but it is a hard question to answer. Jared Diamond doesn't agree with the opinion that genetic differences between peoples make them different. The book searches the reasons why inequality was born between civilizations through geographical and historical differences. It suggests reasons why Europe and Asia could develop more compared with other continents from B.C 11000.



## The main reason of inequality

The author thought agricultural development was a cause which led to increased production amounts of crops and domesticated animals. His researches show Europe and Asia cultivated a number of good crops and raised useful livestock. But other continents had fewer of these types of plants and animals. Development of agriculture also increased population and created various kinds of jobs. Livestock offered advantages on warfare against other competing civilizations. Despite many germs having originated from livestock threatening people, they made livestock immune to lots of diseases.

The nations of Eurasian continent got a lot of chances to interchange one another. That's why it was more developed than any other continents. Actually Europe and Asia got many relationships from 2,000 years ago. In America, there were few

# stem from races

# geographical factors

relationships between other countries. The book views that Eurasia's west-east axis allows countries to access easily each other. West-east axis means similar climate, that's why people have had lots of comings and goings. Other continents lie in north-south axis, so that obstructs relation between them.

## Opinion of professor

Lee Hyun-bok, a linguistics professor of Seoul National University, who recommended the book when it was translated to Korean, said the book quotes a lot of linguistic researches which support the book's claims. He added that Diamond considered the Korean language, especially *Hangeul*, priceless. Lee agreed with Diamond's opinion in that *Hangeul* was made by imitating the shape of organs of speech including mouth, teeth, tongue, and vocal cords. He said the book clarified reasons why human races developed unequally through handing many studies, geography, ecology, genetics, cultural anthropology, pathology, and linguistics.

Studying inequalities of human history, many researches focused on the difference of themselves prior to this book being published. However, this book picks up the reasons from geographical facts.



The movie "Apocalypto" illustrates that the Inca empire would have been demolished for their own troubles even if whites didn't invade the natives.

“The trial to find fundamental heretical reasons for mankind's differences in development would be useless.”

Lee Hyun-bok, a linguistics professor of Seoul National University



Kang Se-hoon / The Argus

Prof. Lee said, “The heredity studies on human races recently show that origin of mankind is from Africa, like the book mentioned. As a result of this we can get a message that the trial to find fundamental heretical reasons for mankind's differences in development would be useless.” The author implies to broaden our viewpoint to various studies like history, anthropology, linguistics and so on.

In this book, geographical difference is another factor of inequality. That aspect can be viewed as environmental determinism to the readers. Environmental determinism has been criticized because it regards people as passive beings. A number of people said that his work was written in environmental determinism. Diamond criticized they had local outlook. Prof. Lee said, however, “Generally almost all humans adapt to their surrounding environments. Though Jared Diamond criticized the people who estimated his working and denied their thought, his

writing is close to environmental determinism.”

The writer researches mankind inequality based on mainly history and geography. It might seem partial. Lee answered, “It couldn't be denied. Researchers tend to make use of their specialty in their work, but the author tries to persuade readers by using other views properly. It is very helpful to use many related field's views. So, academic inquiry has been viewed at one lens in special study, which is important too catch the core of research, even if various views are needed.”

Requested comparison with “Discourse on the origin and basis of inequality among men,” the work of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Lee said “Social inequality on Rousseau's work or geological facts on “Guns, Germs, and Steel,” those can't be denied as causes of inequality. He stressed, “We must not just recognize unequal facts but try to make unequal facts equal.”

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# Welfare pundits gather for advanced social service

By Yun Ji-hun  
Editor of *The Argus*

A sixth seminar with the theme “polarization and social welfare,” took place on August 17 and was led by professors Nam Ki-cheol and Ji Eun-gu of social welfare at Dongduk Women’s and Keimyung universities respectively.

## Digest

The seminar began with Professor Nam’s opening speech “polarization and reorganization of social service system.” In the beginning of his speech, the professor mentioned that the definition of the term “social service” is a little vague. It is necessary to establish the accurate definition. He also said that the former condition of Korean social service was poor, but the recent condition is being more progressed than before as the government attempts to improve quantity and quality of social service. For example, a task force team for reforming social service has been formed in the Ministry of Planning and Budget. Also the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced several strategies: an extension of social investment service, a formation of the social service market, and an advance of quality of social service.

Recently, the government is newly providing a few social welfare services. First, a service of caring a child and a senior citizen is constantly increasing. Especially, Roh administration has been paying much more attention to childcare from the point when the cost of childcare started to reach one trillion won. Second, adoption of a voucher is gradually extending to some welfare services. The voucher is an official bond that the government provides for particular beneficiaries in a bid to financially support their welfare service use. In the year of 2007, the government is performing four voucher welfare service programs including childcare and seniorcare. Third, since 2005, the local governments have had more authority over the budget for the social welfare program, which is part of the central government’s effort to back up the administrative function of social service in the local government level. This decentralization also aims to connect private social services to the public and structure the social welfare service program in the local base.

## Focus

Regarding the government’s welfare policy, there are a few noticeable characteristics. One of them is that the voucher system is approved and budget use plan is changed. These new steps



Nam Ki-cheol delivers a speech about controversial issue on Korean social service.

demonstrate that the government furnishes service users with some finance for using service and allows market activities to become involved in the social welfare service program. Then, the government is expecting that the adoption of the voucher will guarantee beneficiaries’ options if the voucher’s competitive principle is reasonably realized. However, “It is doubtful whether the voucher will successfully take effect or not,” Professor Nam said. “The voucher system might polarize the service users because it depends on the market price and the consumers have to pay the service charge.” He added, “Countries in overseas experienced that the voucher is not

always an effective way of enhancing social service. Thus, the voucher system might bring many side effects. Even the government points out the lack of social service suppliers will make the service incomplete and thus, illegal service can be used.”


Professor Ji said, “Many welfare states do not adopt the voucher system because they question whether it is a desirable system.” He also indicated the new voucher system in Korea will cause additional problems not found in any other countries. First, the service costs may rapidly increase because profit-making corporations will be trying to get back their investment funds. Second, the service suppliers choose the service demanders; that is to say, the suppliers can encourage the richer demanders to pay much more service costs. Then, the service users are divided into consumers with high and low purchasing power. As a result, the poorer demanders will feel a sense of alienation. Third, voucher services are so restrictive that they do not satisfy all individual needs.

For example, even though an old citizen, who receives seniorcare vouchers, requires more important care service, one has to use only seniorcare service vouchers. Therefore, voucher services for basic life like food, clothing, and shelter will be more used, but if other voucher services are not consumed, the economic effectiveness of the voucher services is really limiting.

“Concerning the social service program, welfare pundits asserted the government has to become more responsible for the service. However, there is a possibility that the current reorganization tends to prevent people in poverty from having an access to the service,” Professor Nam said. “The government plans to enlarge private social services and let the service consumers pay the service costs.” He also pointed out that people will bear financial burden unless public responsibility for the social service is strengthened. The government also must not blame the public responsibility on private profit-making corporations.

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A man hooks a young female walker's hand and takes her to the edge of the street of Myong-dong. Suddenly, the man starts to explain a pink colored card to the lady. Showing her a couple of posters of performances including a musical and a concert on tables, he tells that all these services will be free with this card. She watches him with suspicion.

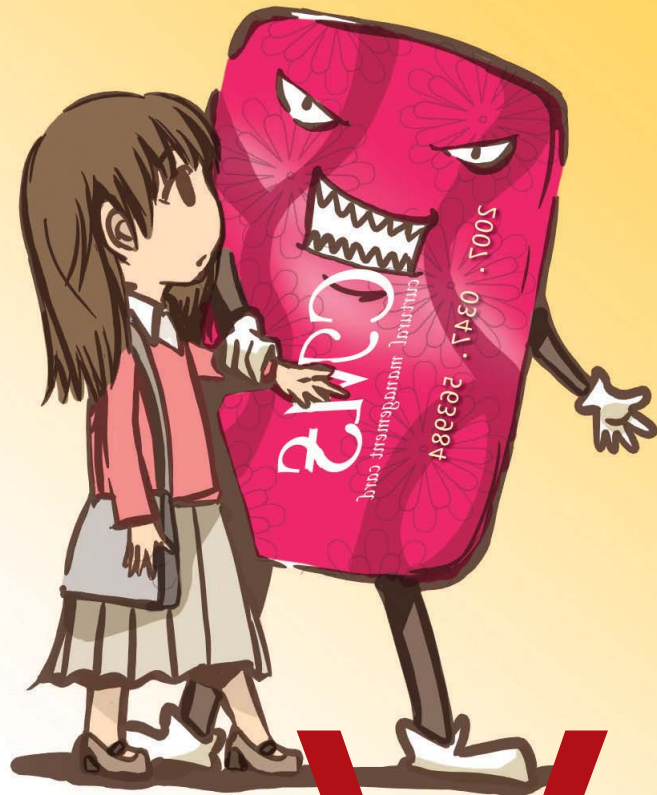
He says that this special card will be given to only 80 people and she got really lucky chance to see all performances on Daehakno for free. According to him, the services that company offer are not only performances at theater but also movies. Then he asks how many times she goes to a theater a month. "Yeah, at least you just go to a theater or cinema once in a month, right? Even if you haven't seen any performances or musicals, you've seen many posters like these. We offer you all kinds of performances for free. All you have to do is just go to the web site and book a ticket." Since that moment she has started to listen to him and ask back. He says "No worry," and keeps explaining how to use, adding that, it does not cost at all. Explaining again how to join the web site, he makes the lady write her name and telephone number on application. Then he asks for 20,000 won as a fund to support theaters which provide performances for six months.

Unwillingly she pays 20,000 won, and goes back home. She connects to the web site and tries to join. To be a member of the web site, however, is too complicated. Contrary to him, the web site offers not all performances on Daehakno, but few performances and even those were on a first-come-first-served basis. The receipt read, "No refund."

By Kwon Eun-jung

# Good benefit in disguise

## Culture card lures and cheats people



By Hwang Kyeong-mi  
Reporter of *The Argus*

Nowadays, as people's interests and number of cultural services increase, many kinds of cards are coming up. These cards seem really useful. However, these cards are becoming increasingly problematic due to the sales-pitches of a company offering the card. Why are culture cards going wrong?

### Culture card's original meaning

"Culture Card" was made for two reasons; they offer more performances at lower prices, and to promethean abundant cultural life. If a person goes to see a movie, one will pay a fixed price, but when one gathers many people, about 30 or more, it is possible to see it for a lower price. Culture card has the same principle. To qualify for the promotion, one should pay a joining fee, a monthly fee and other fees to the card issuers. Fees vary between companies and the provided performances also differ.

### What is the problem?

"Culture card" marketers advertise that members can use this card almost everywhere, including concerts and movies, because they need impressive sales-pitches to attract members. Instead of giving information on the card, the marketers are only trying to get people to join, saying they can check out the details on the net.

For example, on Korea Customer Agency web page, one customer with ID "ksj247" wrote a complaint about the culture card. While in Myeong-dong a culture card representative approached and asked her to join. "ksj247" doubted the card and said she didn't have enough money to join. This led to the salesman to shout, "I'll give you a discount, 10,000 won not 20,000 won." She thought it was a good chance to join since it was half price and only for her. However, latter she learned from the card's webpage that there are two kinds of memberships. Six month membership gives members services and three month membership only gives access to movie previews. Since "ksj247" was never sufficiently informed about the

culture card, even though it cost 10,000 won she insists that she is a victim of fraud. She asked for an apology but the company refused. These hawkers continue their dodgy card-sale practices on the streets.

The explanation is that members know that the card qualifies members to a limited number of cultural events. However with closer inspection, contrary to the explanation, actual free performances are less than 10 and discounted shows are between 10 and 20.

Moreover, the registration fee includes a supporting charge for theaters so members can receive discounts or special rewards. The advertisers point to posters that claim, "our company supports this performance that members can enjoy." However it is not true, there is no support and the registration fee gives nothing.

The members have to pay a cost, part of which contains a levy to support theaters that provide the performances. However, there is a possibility that this is not true. For example, the corporation says that it gives members a 50 percent discount on the famous musical "Nonsense." Changjohall where "Nonsense"



is performed said that “discounting is not for the members, but for the playhall advertisement.”

The salespersons do not explain details of the card that they sell. To see a movie at a discount, one has to go through complicated process to be approved as a member and moreover a reservation on the web. Most people purchasing culture cards don't know about this process. When members regret joining and call for a refund the company refuses. In case of a refund, after the process of registration, the new members are not able to contact the person in charge. One of the new members, ID “Doldmin,” said “even though I got connected to the customer service people, the company delay day after day making the customer tired and give up trying.” Members receive a receipt when purchasing the culture card that states on the back, “This is nonrefundable because the registration fee is used for service

maintenance.” However, people didn't have a chance to see the contract details because they are rushed and distracted when making the purchase on a busy street. The card that people do not know how to use remains a burden in member's purses.

### Problems in contents

As mentioned above, the firm hawks the cards on the road just to gain more members. According to the SBS program “Trick,” the number of the distributed cards is 50 thousand. In other words, the number of the members exceeds that of the performances. However, in spite of this situation, the company promotes the cards with special events, inviting only than from 50 to 100 to people. In fact, they collect everyday, members steadily. The fact that there are insufficient performances to cater for the large number of members means that culture card is nothing but a waste of money.

The service isn't distinguishable from any other sites who offer the same benefits for members and nonmembers alike. Two promoted benefits the card provides are free tickets and discounts. Although members want free invitations, they are very difficult to get. Too many members are signed-up on the streets. To use a skillful discount service, the members have to check the information for following reasons.

First, they

could already qualify for similar discounts for ticketing as non-members on the website such as Inter Park. Second, many performance applicants can get a discount through free sites or internet cafes. If one uses SKT or KTF membership card and a credit card, one can see performance at a special price. For instance, the musical “Nonsense” is reduced by half. However the price is similar even when purchased through the Internet.

As a result, there are exaggerations and false claims in the marketing process. There is no reason to pay and sign up for a card when there are no merits or advantages. Therefore the cards original aim of increasing peoples' cultural activities is not present. It is no more than a lie.

### The way resuscitate Culture card

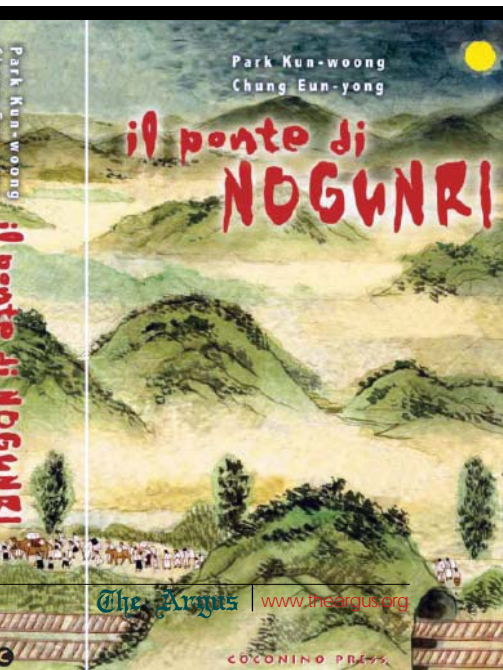
Originally the main idea of the Culture Card, was to offer a variety of performances for a low price and induct public interest toward them. It was to raise the quality of performances and give chances to up and coming performers. If applied properly, this foundation will make ultimately accelerate Korea's cultural performances. From this prospect, Culture Card must really pay attention to Cultural service. Therefore, gathering members is not the current problem.

People interested in such thing as plays or musicals have heard about the “Sarang Ticket.” which its effects are practical, the culture ticket is just ostentatious. Culture Card companies just recruit new members. It will be hard for them to refute the criticism that their goal is pure profiteering. In the past, “c” company issued cards that have no benefits for Korean culture, only blind commercialism. Prevention of sham cards and through suitable advertisements the number of people who enjoy culture will increase.

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# The blossom of history

By Hwang Kyeong-mi  
Reporter of The Argus

**P**ark Kun-woong chose a way of comic book artist after graduating Hongik University. Though most people pursuit profit and power in society, he has his own beliefs. He uses friendly media as a source to express the past. He makes people throw out the prejudice of comics that they are easy and light. He draws comics, but not an ordinary one; it expresses our lives, our feelings and lamentations. Let's meet him and listen to what he is doing.

**Reporter (R):** With many possible routes available to you after graduation, why did you choose your path as a comic artist?

**Park Kun-woong (Park):** Becoming a comic artist wasn't my dream. Though, I just used to do doodling comics in my notebook as a way of killing time. Anyway, when I majored in painting, I felt boundaries and limitations in drawings. The work couldn't represent descriptive construction. It was at that time "comics" crossed my mind and I started to draw the occasional comic.

**R:** Your works were spot light in other countries, how did you feel about that? And which comics do you like most?

**Park:** Whether it was from Korea or elsewhere, the country which I received a spot light from wouldn't matter. Some subjects such as policy and history are getting a lot of attention in the whole world nowadays. I draw human's formal value and I think that touches people's heart. Where, the origin of cartoons or comics are, it is not important. I just like every good work. My favorite cartoon is Art Spiegelman's "Mouse."

Great work doesn't lose the rhythm, and it keeps to the story that it really wants to tell.

**R:** It seems that this work needs an interest in history to draw historical paintings. Did you like history when you were young?

**Park:** As a matter of fact, I did not like history back in my school days. But as I entered the university, I took part in the student movement and I deeply was impressed by the student movement. The experiences motivated me to draw about history. Those experiences taught me a lot of the historical backgrounds behind stories that I couldn't learn in my high school classes.

**R:** In terms of articulating history, what are the difficulties and advantages?

**Park:** A comic is just like a universe. However people's appetites have declined. Prejudice makes comics nothing but kid's toy, so cartoons are treated contemptuously.

If the public was still captured by such kind of prejudice, there couldn't be any new forms comics. It's true that people tend to treat cartoon as familiar thing in contrast to history.

And most people handle history as it is not their business. There is no specific reason for using Korea contemporary history as a subject matter. Subject and genre aren't as important as people's attitudes.

**R:** Your first work "Flower, vol.1" doesn't look like a comic because it contains so few words. Why do you use various effect and alternative technique in your work?

**Park:** My first work "Flower" has few words in first volume. Vol. 1 is starting line in my stories and I thought few words can help people imagine more things than reading words. As people change their clothes, an art also needs to change their clothes, effects or techniques because of the subject matter, "long term prisoners under during the era of Japanese imperialism." I

thought woodcut painting technique would be very effective to express the penetrating pain. For example in "Nogunri story," I used Calligraphy techniques to show the sorrow spreading. But I don't think that I'm special because of this unique technique. I just choose the best technique for a certain subject. The concept of personality is neither a subject matter nor character but a person's thought.

**R: When you paint your work, aren't you sad?**

**Park:** What a happy work I do. It is a way to resolve my feelings. Funeral directors aren't scared of corpses because they think that they are leading souls to heaven. Therefore they believe ghosts do not hurt them. As the funeral director does, I console their grief and sadness through my drawings. And I never thought my works give people sad feelings. Looking at the end of the story, dead people gather and have a party, I regard that "The death" could be more beautiful than "The lives."

**R: What is your philosophy and what dreams?**

**Park:** Actually, I don't have my own philosophy not like other famous people. I just think creators are as same as shaman. As a shaman links dead people to the living, I link my readers to history by my work. Also just showing my work has meaning and I feel fulfillment. Also, in my capitalism mind, my dream is to buy a building and open a comic cafe. However, I want to talk about good mind for cartoons rather than commercial things, good books sell a lot. Do you think the best seller is made in the short time? No, it isn't. Good books continue to sell in the long term. I'd just be happy with my workplace for creating new works.

**R: Would you give some advice for HUFSA's?**

**Park:** Students who study foreign studies are great.

Not just speaking foreign language, learning other culture is important. From this students are open to other countries and will feel the connection between them. I think students have to see more and keep thinking. So, experiencing many things will help your mind become deeper and wider.

Experience as much as you can, then you'll learn a lot from it.

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Kwon Eun-jung / The Argus

PLUS

## Turning point from tragedy to happiness



By Kwon Eun-jung

Editor of The Argus

A piece of a picture sometimes tells more than ten sentences. Blossoms are scattered in the wind. And seeds fly to a mountain, a hill, and an old man's hand. The man who clapped in a prison, smiles watching the seeds. Suddenly, the old man thinks back on the past of him.

It is the beginning of Park Kun-woong's comic book "Flower vol1." The first issue of this book, has very few word as if it doesn't need any translation for exportation to another country. Readers might have wonders what technique is used, why this book has few word and why he choose the contents as comic book, for telling about Korean overall modern history such as Japanese imperialism, liberation and the Korean War, by a life of prisoner of conscience. Jaeng-cho, who loved his landlord's daughter but should be drafted.

As previously stated, however, his comics can tell a lot of things which a novel cannot. It takes time a lot to read and turn every pages. The reason why this book moves people's heart could be each episodes which we have seen in many dramas or movies, the pain of division, parting of people's and unexpected death of a comrade. People are moved by his expression at each scenes and episodes. In this book, instead of using many speeches, using woodcut technique, this technique inscribes not only each lines, but also the spirits and regret of Korea. Spaces between each scenes gives reader chances to imagine, each scenes shows shocking events of pasts.

In this book, the flower does not say about the hope neither a tragedy of scattering after full bloom for a moment in a season. Flower blooms in any season. All the people who died in history smile at the last page of the book. What we would do is that not to see a flower as just a flower. The artist requests people think the past. Leaf and roots. And it means not only the past, also thinking of a fruit after a flower falling and new seed the fruit would bring. Park draws happiness of people, even after they die. Park expresses his sorrow at people's, death through his book and hopes their happiness.

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# Yellow tide on screen

By **Kwon Eun-jung**  
Editor of *The Argus*



A woman kisses a man in front of her boyfriend. It is not a scene of a movie. It is just a scene of a show program on cable TV. Other guests are shouting and the boyfriend looks puzzled a lot. This program is on the air 7 p.m. when all family members gather and have dinner. Since 1995, with opening 30 channels, some cable TV broadcasting stations have attempted new media and multi-channel formats. This was an aftereffect other than the three major broadcasting systems people regularly are used to watching. Now, the number of cable TV programs became huge and viewers choose a program of their own favor among 30 to 80 channels. Increase in numerous, however, does not mean diversity. The contents are too insufficient compared to the number of channels. Furthermore as to quality, it gets worse, cable TV broadcasting is called a nudity and a violence producing center.

It has been twelve years since the opening of cable TV broadcasting with many people's affection. Despite the importance of new media and diversified contents, cable TV did not take the role of an ideal broadcasting when it was supposed to at the beginning.

In 2006, some programs such as "Cheaters," "Jerry Springer Show" and so on were in trouble because it's over the line contents. Eventually the programs were cut off air. However owing to a high audience rating, these kinds of shows brought other similar programs in Korea. For example, a reenactment program, which shows a fake acting as if it is real, "Dokgo Young-jae's scandal on the spot" reports a spot of adultery as if it is real. The show creates scenes with minimum mosaic and small subtitle of "reenactment." On another show, "Cho Jeong-rin's spinning blind date," the players almost fight each other and foul another calling them names. Most of these situations are directed after shooting, and many of the unexpected narration have made contestants of the show come with a bad image.

Audience ratings become higher day by day, whether these situations are directed or not. After a program ends, plenty of condemnations come up on inter net bulletin board system of the program. The nature of the mass, however, the more a program become violent and nudity gets off line, the more people watch. "Dokgo Young-jae's scandal on the spot," a Korean version "Cheaters," has maintained its audience rating at three percent of whole ratings since it first came on air this January. Also, "Cho Jeong-rin's spinning blind date" accedes as one of the long going programs as it has lasted two years though it has been faced criticism and penalty was given several times. Once it gets a penalty, the experience gives knowledge to avoid limitations the next time. The more severe problem is that there is a lot of similar new programs following.

These brutalities of cable TV broadcastings would bring thoughtless values and wrong ideology from foreign countries to viewers, especially to easy excited twenties who go nuts on showbiz trend. In comparison to national broadcastings, the cable TV broadcastings have lots of channels, more possibilities to use contents and less restrictions from the Press Arbitration Commission. By using these merits, cable TV should give people something specialized and instructive. Some may say that it is just a show program for killing time at the most, what could you possibly get something from that? If someone makes a program, however, the person should have responsibility for what he or she makes and its influence. Not only for the TV program director also the most important thing in a job, is pride. People should know for sure what they make, and what outcomes it will bring. Instead of programs to only make profit and high audience rating, specialized programs that gives good impact are really needed.

It is time to change today's cable TV which makes people frown. No viewer wants to watch offending shows, rather something useful for them. To come again as a true media people long for, the problems of nudity and violence should be reconsidered and solved. Otherwise, cable TV can never shake off its dishonor as a yellow media and viewers will avert their eyes from the screen.

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# Sweet job landing



**Yi Jin-nam**

- Vice president of Writing Education Society

Every college student may want to get a good job. Some students begin to prepare TOEIC from their freshman days. Others take time off from school for preparing job application. They seem to believe that their diligence will deserve success in near future. Very few, however, know the fact that Fortune would be satisfied with practical wisdom not with blind endeavor. They are marching steadily without pause, but they do not have any guide.

What is the best way to get a good job? Some would answer that they need to be equipped with foreign language ability? especially English, license, GPA, internship and etc. Others would say that diplomas from highly competitive schools would still work even in 21st century. Most of these may be some of secondary conditions which may help the applicants get a good job, but none of them are not the essential requirements for that.

What is the primary and indispensable condition for the success in getting a good job? It is to be a good worker. Is not it too much simple and evident truth? Yes, but it is what most applicants miss in their job preparation. What is the best way to anticipate the questions in exams? It is to suppose that we are the question-giver and to anticipate what he or she would give as the questions.

Likewise, the best way to expect interviewers' intention is to suppose that we are the interviewers.

Ask yourself these questions: what kinds of applicants do you like to employ as finalists if you are a CEO? A good worker. This would be your answer to the question. What then is the meaning of a "good" worker? That would be a person who makes good achievements in their tasks. What then are the basic requirements for that? How can he or she make good business results?

Achievements come from the problem solving. Every task in business is composed of two elements, reality and ideal situation. Task is problem-solving process. Problem solving is transition from real state to ideal one. Good achievement is good problem-solving activity which turns problematic state into ideal one.

What does the problem-solving ability comprise? It may contain licenses, foreign language abilities, GPA, internship or something like these tangible stuffs, but these are at most peripheral components. The core of the problem-

solving ability lies in creativity, critical faculty, expressiveness and adaptability. Knowledge or grade such as GPA or TOEIC does not reflect the real potentiality in taking business tasks. Simple experience as a part-timer at McDonalds for three months does not guarantee the ability as a computer engineer. Career is not what we have experienced but how we have worked and achieved.

How can we come to have problem-solving abilities? The key might be found in liberal education such as core curricula. Ironically speaking, liberal education for freshmen and sophomore is closer to job preparation than courses for majors in third and fourth grade. Recently compulsory courses of liberal education in first and second year have been revived in most of major colleges in this country. The core curricula, so called, "Thinking and Expression" provide not only necessary abilities for college life such as taking classes and getting good grades but also competences in job application. "Thinking" comprises critical thinking, creativity, practical wisdom, and "Expression" does communication skills such as writing, presentation, leadership. These abilities are nothing else than the competence that business owners want from job applicants. The lack of these basic competences is what hinders you from getting a job.

Most CEOs I know do not simply want a college graduate with 900 in TOEIC or one year study abroad at ESL centers. They want any person who can freely communicate in English on his or her business matters. What they prefer is not five licenses related to his or her major or internship experiences at a distinguished company. They would hire the person who can handle and solve any kinds of given tasks with their incorporated competences in creative thinking and effective communication.

Athletes cannot expect good results without basic physical strength. Likewise, you as a job seeker cannot expect a good job without the basic abilities. It is time for you to step back and to restore your problem-solving competence before you study TOEIC or get licenses. That is the best way to sell yourself in highly competitive job market.



## International couples, would you like to be one of them?

With globalization taking its speed it has become easier to spot couples which have different nationalities. In fact I have noticed even in Korea it's not uncommon to find them on the street. As many Koreans go abroad to stretch out their dreams and plans more and more foreigners come to Korea for the purpose to work, study or other various reasons, there's no wonder that there happens to be more contacts between them which eventually create more "international couples" than ever before. Seeing the uprising phenomenon, I'd like to draw attention on some of the barriers you will have to face having a foreign partner, especially if you're seriously considering the marriage.

First of all as all of you could imagine, the barrier of language could be a problem; a huge one. No matter how well you speak the language, it's never going to be the same as your mother language in expressing your deep thoughts, emotions and opinions. The relationship between the married is very much intimate but it's also so delicate that a small misunderstanding, probably by language problem, could result in discord.

Second, the cultural differences. I also think love could embrace everything but the marriage is a reality which is not always the same how we feel it like to be. This barrier might surface in a way easy to recognize such as food, clothes and language but also in tiny matters which are complicated to describe with words. So sometimes you could offend your partner without intending it, or vice versa, just because of this difference of culture and the situation gets even worse if you two don't find a way out to dissolve the misunderstanding.

Therefore it would be always good to have habits to have deep conversations.

Finally, last but not least, the barrier of the family. Unless all of your family member speak the language which your partner does, it will be very hard for your family to build a relationship with him or her which is not something minor. For instance, whenever there's a family gathering, the atmosphere could be conditioned by your partner due to the fact that he or she can't be sufficiently absorbed with the air simply because your partner doesn't speak well Korean. And with that happening over and over, the stress will be accumulated and could bring about something dislikable for which your family could oppose strongly the relationship especially if your family put lots of importance on the harmony of the family members and the tight bond one another.

Regardless of all these barriers, however, I positively believe that international couples could be successful in their relationship even though at times there will be small problems as anyone does, on the condition that you and your partner give deep thought on all the bad possibilities and you two meet some sort of accordance.

As you all well aware of, if you know your enemy and know yourself, you win 100 times out of 100 battles. So know yourself well and your enemy which could be your partner, the marriage and all the barriers that it brings behind and you will be satisfied whatever your decision will be.

*Ko Myung-jin (I-04)*



**Han Gyu-hyun**  
Cartoonist  
of The Argus

### A daw and borrowed university degrees.



# Argusholic!!

## Dive in!



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Qualification : 07 Freshman

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Markets Summary

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